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# STARS STRIPES.®

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Volume 76, No. 233 ©SS 2018

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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## ANALYSIS

Trump's choice to meet with Kim potentially fruitful, risky

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — President Donald Trump's surprise decision to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offers a rare opportunity for a diplomatic solution to a nuclear crisis that has threatened to erupt into war. But it also carries a lot of risk.

■ US officials say no added conditions for summit

Page 6

Korea is ready to make peace.

"I think it's time," he said Saturday during a campaign rally for Republican congressional candidate Rick Saccone in Pennsylvania.

"Who knows what's going to happen," he said of the summit. "I may leave fast, or we may sit down and make the greatest deal for the world."

Thursday's announcement that Trump had accepted Kim's invitation to meet was a stunning reversal of long-standing U.S. policy that no talks would be held until the North made concrete efforts toward denuclearization. It would be the first time a sitting U.S. president has met with a North Korean leader.

The White House pushed back against criticism that it was agreeing to a meeting without getting anything in return. Trump insisted that economic sanctions will remain on the table until an agreement is reached and noted the North Koreans have committed to denuclearization and promised to suspend weapons tests while talks are held.

SEE TRUMP ON PAGE 6

## Careless with CANINE WARRIORS

IG report says Army mishandled bomb-sniffing dogs from Afghanistan, while some former handlers say too little being done to correct those mistakes

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Staff Sgt. Shawn Martinez stands with Bono after a patrol in Afghanistan in 2012. Martinez, Bono's handler on that deployment, adopted the dog after a painful separation.

Jacobs Guardian/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

## EUROPE

# 5th-grader wins European PTA Spelling Bee

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — When he heard the word needed for the win, Jonnen Messer could hardly contain his excitement.

After 38 grueling rounds and more than four hours on stage, Messer, a fifth-grader at Ramstein Intermediate School, won the 35th Annual European PTA Spelling Bee on Saturday.

Ramon Padua Jr., a seventh-grader at Ramstein Middle School, almost went the distance with Messer.

After Messer spelled “stalactite” correctly, Padua stumbled on a somewhat unusual word: “trillado,” which means market coffee prepared by drying the beans in the sun. Padua spelled it, “t-r-i-l-l-a-d-o.”

Messer had to get one more word right for the win. He knew it as soon as he heard it, “Istanbul.” “I think it’s shocking,” Messer said after it was over, still flabbergasted that he won while competing for the first time in the European bee.

“There were a few times when I thought I spelled a word incorrectly, which I didn’t,” he said.

There was no need to ask Messer for an example of one of those words. In Round 24, he groaned loudly into the microphone. “oh, no,” when the pronouncer gave him the word “divulged” to spell. He looked lost for a minute, gathered his composure, then spelled it correctly. Back at his seat, he put his hand over his mouth as if in disbelief and wiped his brow.

This year’s contest was partic-



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

**Jonnen Messer, a fifth-grader at Ramstein Intermediate School, reacts after winning the 35th Annual European PTA Spelling Bee on Saturday at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.**

ularly intense.

The event, held in the cafeteria of Ramstein Elementary School, began with 27 spellers, students in grades 3 to 8 at military schools in Europe who had won their schools’ spelling bees.

By Round 21, only five spellers

were left: Messer; Padua; Willow Hauver, of Stuttgart Elementary School; Sara Moriarity, of Naples High School; and Dario Toska, of Garmisch Elementary/Middle School. They pushed through five more flawless rounds, spelling words such as “Ares,” “brooches”



**Jonnen Messer reacts after spelling a hard word correctly at the spelling bee.**



**Ramon Padua Jr., of Ramstein Middle School, spells a word during the spelling bee. Padua finished second in the contest.**

and “infraorder.”

By Round 27, only Messer, Padua and Moriarity remained

on stage. Moriarity hung on for another nine rounds.

Missing a word meant leaving the stage after that round ended. Some kids left the stage in tears, seeking comfort in the embrace of parents who were waiting in the wings.

Messer said he studied about an hour a day, “sometimes two.” Spellers were given a list of some 1,555 words to study. Only the early rounds, however, drew from that list.

For the win, Messer will get two round-trip tickets to Washington to represent the European PTA in the Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 29-31.

“I feel like a bunch of bricks have been lifted off my shoulders,” Messer said, relieved that at least this bee was over.

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## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY LEON COOK/Stars and Stripes

A C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing sits on the tarmac at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Thursday. The planes are replacing Vietnam War-era C-130Hs at Yokota.



Above: Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Gates, a loadmaster with the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota, stands by as reporters board the Super Hercules. Right: A Super Herc pilot looks at his instruments during a flight around Mount Fuji.



# USAF shows off new Super Herc planes in Japan

By LEON COOK  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The 374th Airlift Wing showed off one of its new C-130J Super Hercules cargo planes Thursday at Yokota Air Base, flying two dozen Japanese and American journalists around Mount Fuji.

The plane — one of 14 that are replacing Vietnam War-era C-130Hs at the home of U.S. Forces Japan and the 5th Air Force in western Tokyo — has powerful engines and high-tech computer systems that give it more range and capability than the older models.

USFJ commander Lt. Gen. Jerry Martinez called the Super Herc the “meanest, toughest, most tactical machine in the world” when the first of Yokota’s new aircraft arrived last spring.

Bad weather canceled a planned parachute demonstration ahead of the media flight, but reporters still got a tour of Japan’s tallest mountain in the Super Herc.

To see video of the Super Herc demonstration, go to: [starsandstripes.com/go/superherc](https://starsandstripes.com/go/superherc)



Passengers were invited into the cockpit to see digital instruments that replace gauges and switches in the new planes.

Heads-up displays in front of the Super Herc’s pilot and co-pilot showed flight information in bright green that seemed to hang in the air, from their perspectives.

The cabin is roomier than it was on the old models, since powerful computers and sensors mean there’s no need for a flight engineer or navigator. They can also carry up to eight cargo pallets — two more than the older model.

Yokota’s old planes went to Air National Guard units last year. The last of Yokota’s new Super Hercules is scheduled to arrive by the end of the summer, an Air Force spokesman said.

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## Americans knighted into German hunting brotherhood

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

ANSBACH, Germany — For U.S. hunters stationed overseas, the process of obtaining a hunting license outside the U.S. is more a rite of passage than a simple application process.

After nearly three months of hard work, a group of American soldiers and U.S. base workers recently were knighted into a German hunting order as jungjaegers, or young hunters.

During the knighting ceremony, traditional Bavarian horns sounded as the seven Americans knelt on a wooden board — an austere, pain-inducing ritual to remind them of their responsibilities as hunters.

Not every American goes through a knighting ceremony when they are accepted into a German hunting order, but they all must participate in a rigorous, time-consuming training process.

The new American inductees into the German Hunting Brotherhood went through 90 hours of training, meeting several days a week to learn German hunting laws and the 1,000-year-old history of hunting in the region.

The Americans formed a close bond during the training. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation course emphasized teamwork and dedication to each other, said Lt. Col. Suk Kim, one of the hunters who was knighted.

There were 14 hunters originally in the course, but due to the high level of commitment it takes to keep up with it, half



Courtesy of U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach

American soldiers and U.S. base workers were knighted into a German hunting order in Ansbach, Germany, on Jan. 26.

dropped out, said course instructor Fred Lane.

The hunters attributed the high attrition rate to the time commitment and the German language skills required to qualify for the license. German hunting vocabulary is almost a language in itself, they said.

“This is the hardest hunting license to get in the world,” Lane said.

In addition to learning about German wildlife and hunting laws, the Americans soon found out that hunting is fundamentally different in Germany, said Maj. Jesse McCullough.

“In the U.S., you’re out there on your own, and you appreciate nature, and that’s beautiful. But here, you’re not just out there hunting for yourself. Here, they treat

‘It’s not just about getting a deer. It’s about culling the population so the animals can thrive. They teach you to be part of the ecosystem.’

Maj. Jesse McCullough  
American inductee into the German Hunting Brotherhood

hunters like stewards of the land, and you feel an even deeper connection to the nature because of it,” McCullough said.

One reason hunting is less of an individual sport in Germany is because hunters must lease land from property owners, so you’re always doing it in conjunction with other people, Lane said.

But a big part of it is the mindset. Hunters in Germany are encouraged to kill their prey in the most humane way possible and to hunt as a way to promote the overall health of the land, the hunters said.

“It’s not just about getting a deer. It’s about culling the population so the animals can thrive. They teach you to be part of the ecosystem,” McCullough said.

Hunting programs like this are available to U.S. personnel and families at most Army garrisons overseas. To find out more information about a program near you, contact your local MWR representative.

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## MILITARY



Courtesy of Andrew Spaulding

Army Spc. Andrew Spaulding and tactical explosives detection dog Bono take a break during Bono's first deployment to Afghanistan in 2010.

# Seeking justice

## War dog handlers disappointed by adoption process

By DIANNA CAHN  
Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Shawn Martinez stepped off the airplane onto the Kansas tarmac, hunching his shoulders against the gloom of a cold, gray winter's day and the starkness of coming home. He gave his buddy, Bono, a tactical explosive detection dog, a playful wrestle.

He'd barely taken a few steps when Army contractors approached him to take the dog. After all, Bono was the property of the U.S. Army.

It was wrenching. Martinez and Bono had traversed hell together in Afghanistan in 2012. They'd lost a fellow battle buddy — watching as his life drained away under flying bullets — and bore witness to each other's pain. Bono had developed shakes and nightmares; he would urinate on himself in moments of stress. Martinez had his own anxiety after three deployments that included a Purple Heart after taking shrapnel in his upper legs from a grenade.

Being abruptly separated as they came home in February 2013 was brutal. "They just didn't care," said Martinez. "They threw him in a kennel, and that was that."

It took Martinez months of pounding the phones before he found Bono at a kennel run by Army subcontractor K2 Solutions in North Carolina and ultimately adopted him. When he went to collect Bono, the dog was skinny and agitated, Martinez said. He had "hot spots" where he would chew into his own flesh in moments of distress — something he continues to do today when he is confined in small spaces.

It seemed to Martinez that this alpha dog that had been trained to run through battlefields and sniff out bombs had been all but imprisoned in kennel cages, rarely getting to stretch his legs.

"He didn't get walked a lot," Martinez said. "He didn't get shown a lot of attention."

Bono was one of 232 military war dogs who served honorably in the Army's four-year tactical explosive detection program, or TEDD, and according to a

just-released Defense Department inspector general report, he was one of the lucky ones. Struggling with anxiety, Bono left the TEDD program while it was still operational and was able to land in the care of one of his handlers. Most of the dogs and handlers never found each other again.

### Steps skipped

The report found that the Army had no plans in place on how to dispose of the dogs, so after the program closed abruptly in early 2014, the Army had just weeks to adopt out or reassign 150 remaining dogs. The Army's office of the Provost Marshal General did not extend the contract care for the dogs, so it was forced to skip steps and quickly dispose of them, the report said.

Because of that, dogs were adopted out without giving their handlers first option, and many were given away without the required vetting of the dog or its new owner to ensure they were suitable, the report found. The IG found cases where a dog that was trained to bite or was aggressive was given to a family with small children. Many of the dogs weren't neutered or tracked properly.

Army data show that of 232 dogs, 40 were adopted by handlers, 47 were adopted out to civilians, 70 went to other Army units, at least nine died and the rest went to federal or law enforcement agencies. Three were identified on a spreadsheet but not included in the Army's final tally, so their fates were not clear, the report found.

The IG made recommendations for the Army to put safeguards in place for future programs, since the TEDD program shut down long ago, but it did not hold any individuals accountable. The report also did not address the way some dogs, like Bono, languished in kennels before the program ended.

For former handlers and advocates, the report comes as no surprise. But they say it didn't delve deep enough or try to right past wrongs.

"We hoped there would be more resolution for the handlers," said Betsy Hampton, who has been running the Facebook page



JACOB GIARDINI/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Staff Sgt. Shawn Martinez and Bono inspect an Afghan truck for explosives near Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan, in 2012. Martinez, Bono's handler on the deployment, later adopted him.

and website Justice for TEDD Handlers since 2015, the year after the program shut down. "I was surprised they admitted fault," she said. "But mostly, I was upset that they are not rectifying wrongdoing."

### Justice for TEDD Handlers

During the "surge" in Afghanistan in 2010, U.S. forces and their allies encountered a spike in buried enemy bombs. The Army initiated the TEDD program as a way to help troops detect and remove the explosives before they did harm.

The program was considered a success, lasting from 2011 to 2014. But it was stood up quickly, procuring and training dogs through a contractor rather than the established Air Force training program used for most of the military's war dogs.

Soldiers from brigade combat teams volunteered to be TEDD handlers and, after going through a few months of training, would deploy with the dogs. Once they came home, the dogs would go back into the system to be picked up by another handler for deployment.

Handlers were told they would be given first right to adopt the dogs when the time came, according to the report. But that promise mostly fell through the cracks. When the TEDD program was shutting down in late 2013 and early 2014, the subcontractor that trained and kenneled the dogs — the second over the course of four years — held two adoption events. Many handlers weren't notified and, as the report

indicated, many of the dogs and their prospective adopters were not properly vetted.

"Essentially, anyone with a pulse was given a dog," Hampton wrote in a description on the Justice for TEDD Handlers Facebook page.

Hampton and a small group of people started the social media campaign to reunite TEDDs with their handlers in December 2015. Her involvement with the TEDDs began after the shelter where she adopted her own dog posted a notice about a TEDD handler who was looking for his dog, Howard.

She joined thousands of supporters on social media to help him locate Howard and ultimately win a custody fight to get him back.

She and a few others soon discovered that Howard's case wasn't isolated. He was one of six dogs adopted by a small town in North Carolina on the premise that the dogs would be used by law enforcement. But instead, they had been adopted by individual police officers, Hampton said.

Since then, they've connected with more than 100 TEDD handlers who have been unable to find or reconnect with their dogs. Hampton said some of the handlers had tracked down their dogs within weeks of the adoptions, but many families were not willing to give the dogs up.

"The people running this (adoption event) did not know what they were doing," Hampton said in an interview. "I was told whoever showed up got a dog."

**SEE JUSTICE ON PAGE 5**



## MILITARY

## Justice: Family shared dog custody with GI handler

## FROM PAGE 4

Hampton and her group found some dogs went to friends of contractors in the program or friends of Army officers, she said. Others went to a group that said they were planning to retrain them as service dogs for veterans. Instead, the dogs were left at a kennel while the group tried to sell them to the Panamanian government, Hampton said.

Some people acted like the dogs were trophies, she said.

"People were posting stuff on Facebook. They were proud of the dogs they found," Hampton said. "We have so many files of screenshots of people bragging about getting these dogs. It's disgusting."

## Ben

One of Hampton's key complaints is when adoptive families, fearing they will lose their dog, won't share information with the handlers. It's heartbreaking for them, she said.

Others have done right by handlers — seeking to reunite them with the dog. When Kim Scarborough adopted her dog, Ben, during one of the Army's adoption days at K2 Solutions in 2014, she set out right away to locate Ben's handler.

Scarborough found Hampton online, and two years later, Hampton connected her to Julio Munoz, Ben's handler, now living in New York City. Scarborough, who lives in Kingston, N.C., said she and Munoz corresponded for a while through Facebook until they finally met a few months later when she visited her mother in Pennsylvania.

They met at a park in spring 2016. Munoz came with his wife, Sully, and their two children. Scarborough came with Ben. She watched the emotional reunion of dog and handler, and Scarborough said she knew, no matter how painful, that she had to give Ben back to his rightful owner.

Munoz wondered whether Ben might be better off with Scarborough and her husband, Paul, on the farm, she said. But Scarborough was adamant. "I told him he needed to take the dog," she said.

The Munoz family took Ben, and they all stayed in touch. After several months, Scarborough missed Ben and Munoz realized the animal would benefit from being able to run around, so they agreed to swap. Ben would be on a snowbird dog. He would be in New York in the summers and head down to the farm for the winters.

In late 2016, though, when Munoz deployed again, he asked Scarborough if she would take Ben on the farm full time.

"Even though we went through a lot of stuff, I still wanted Ben to have the better life," Munoz said. "I wanted him to go back to the original family that adopted him. It already felt in love with them, and I didn't want to break that apart."

Now the dog lives with the Scarboroughs, and the Munozes stop in for visits. The two families have become friends, Scarborough said.

"We have a unique relation-



Courtesy of Andrew Spaulding

Army Spc. Andrew Spaulding and Bono look for explosive devices in Afghanistan.



Courtesy of Kim Scarborough

Kim Scarborough, Ben and Ben's former handler, Julio Munoz, catch up at Scarborough's Kingston, N.C., home in August 2017.

ship, one for which I am especially proud," she said.

Scarborough said Ben is thriving. When she first took him home, the 45-pound dog was 10 pounds underweight and extremely stressed. He was humping everything in sight, she said with embarrassment. But after just a few days of open farmland and a little discipline — they would put him in a room when he would act on.

Ben stopped that behavior and hasn't exhibited it since, she said. "At the adoption place, it was obvious things were not handled properly," she said. The woman running the adoption was clearly stressed. "It was chaotic."

One thing was clear, Ben was a

dog used to being a leader: To this day, every time she walks outside to pick up the newspaper, Ben startles her when he crouches and jumps up and grabs the paper. It's like a game.

"After all these years, you'd think we'd be used to it," she said, laughing.

"He is the sweetest, kindest, gentlest dog," she said. "We think we hit the jackpot with him — and with Julio and Sully and their children. I really think it doesn't get better than that."

## Bono revisited

In May 2015, Andrew Spaulding put a post on Facebook with

pictures of Bono, the bomb detection dog he handled during his deployment to Afghanistan five years earlier.

"I was supposed to have first choice when it came to adopting him, and come to find out, his last handler was able to adopt him instead," wrote Spaulding, who served six years in the Army and now lives in Bartow, Fla. He wanted to locate Bono and find out how he was doing.

Bono and Spaulding had deployed to southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province in 2010. It was the Taliban heartland, and improvised explosive devices were everywhere. For 10 months, the dog and his handler were inseparable — going on patrols, working checkpoints or hanging back at the base.

"He slept with me, ate with me," Spaulding said. "We went everywhere with me."

Bono found caches of bomb-making equipment and weapons. He sniffed out buried bombs. He even detected the scent of explosives on an empty trailer bed that was being pulled behind a motorcycle. A swipe proved him right — the motorcycle had been carrying explosives.

When they landed back home in 2011, the contractor that trained and housed the dogs — at that point Vohne Liche, in Indiana — was waiting on the tarmac to take Bono back.

It wasn't until 2015, not long after the TEDD program shut down, that Spaulding set out to look for Bono. A colleague from the program informed him Bono had been adopted.

In May, he put up the Facebook post.

Within days, the post had been shared more than 100,000 times, Spaulding said, and it ultimately led to Bono's second handler, Martinez, who deployed with Bono in 2012 and 2013.

Spaulding contacted Martinez and learned what those two had been through together.

Martinez and Bono were attached to a Special Forces unit.

They went on countless air and overnight assaults, landing in the dark of night in remote areas and seeking out the enemy.

One night, during a particularly heavy fight, Martinez heard on the radio that Staff Sgt. Jon Schmidt had been wounded while running to help a fallen Green Beret. Bono and Martinez had drilled with Schmidt to be the backup handler should something happen to Martinez. The three were extremely close. Martinez and Bono were by Schmidt's side when he died.

Martinez told Spaulding that Bono was living a good life with him. Though it hurt Spaulding to know he would never live with Bono again, that was all he needed to hear.

"Bono is with his last handler and living a very happy life," Spaulding wrote in a post May 18. "He was certified last year as a service dog to help his current owner with PTSD and traumatic brain injury. He is loved by him very much and that is all I care to see."

Spaulding said he was told from day one of the TEDD program that as Bono's first handler, he would have first adoption rights. But no one ever contacted him. "I guess it was just a bunch of empty promises," he said.

Not a day goes by that he doesn't think of his dog. But he knows Bono is in good hands and he does not want to destroy what Martinez has with the dog.

He hopes that one day he will get to see him again.

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## MILITARY

## No additional conditions for N. Korea talks

By MARK SHERMAN  
AND ROBERT BURNS  
Associated Press

Trump administration officials said Sunday there will be no more conditions imposed on North Korea before a first-ever meeting of the two nation's leaders beyond the North's promise not to resume nuclear testing and missile flights or publicly criticize U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

The officials' comments followed the surprise announcement last week that President Donald Trump has agreed to meet the North's Kim Jong Un by May.

"This potential meeting has been agreed to. There are no additional conditions being stipulated, but again, if they can't engage in missile testing, they cannot engage in nuclear testing and they can't publicly object to the U.S.-South Korea

planned military exercises," deputy White House spokesman Raj Shah said.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the summit would give Trump a chance "to sit down and see if he can cut a deal" with Kim over the North's nuclear program. "The president has been very clear in what the objective is here, and that is to get rid of nuclear weapons on the (Korean) Peninsula," Mnuchin said.

The administration officials credited toughened economic sanctions — imposed by the United Nations and pushed by the United States — with helping bring Kim to the brink of negotiations.

"Our policy is pressure, is pressure from our partners and allies around the world, pressure to the United Nations, pressure through China; these have had an impact," Shah said. "It's impacted Kim Jong Un's behavior. It's impacted his conduct."

But some members of Congress said they worry that Trump acted impulsively in agreeing to meet with Kim before negotiators for both countries had a chance to set some goals the leaders could agree to.

"But the important thing is the diplomatic work that has to go in before such a meeting," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a frequent Trump critic. "A meeting like that would be kind of an afterthought after the negotiations are negotiated. Here, it looks as if, you know, that's kind of the opening gambit. And that's a little worrisome."

The U.S. and South Korea hold military maneuvers every year. They were postponed during the recent Winter Olympics in South Korea. They are expected to be held in April, but no official announcement has been made about when they will take place. In an interview en route to the Middle East, Defense Secretary Jim Mat-

tis declined to discuss the timing and scale of the exercises.

Mattis wouldn't talk at all about the diplomatic push over North Korea's nuclear program. "When you get in a position like this, the potential for misunderstanding remains very high," he said.

Mattis was among the advisers in the White House on Thursday when Trump decided to accept Kim's offer to meet. The offer was relayed to Trump by a South Korean government delegation that briefed the president on their meeting with Kim last week in North Korea's capital.

Trump said Saturday that he believes North Korea will abide by its pledge to suspend missile tests while he prepares for the summit. He noted in a tweet that North Korea has refrained from such tests since November and said Kim "has promised not to do so through our meetings."

## Trump: US administration must go into meeting with clear objectives or risk failure

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Kim Jong Un also accepted the fact that Washington and Seoul would begin annual war games after the March 8-18 Paralympics despite North Korea's fierce opposition to the joint military exercises.

Critics noted that the summit itself gives the North Koreans an initial victory because one of their most cherished goals has been a seat at the table with a U.S. president.

The North Koreans have used past negotiations to stall for time and gain concessions and humanitarian assistance from the West only to eventually renege on promises and make advances in their effort to develop a nuclear weapon that could target the U.S. mainland.

Here's a look at key issues as Washington gets ready for what would be a historic and unprecedented meeting. No time or place has been set, but the South Korean officials who delivered Kim's invitation to Trump said it would be by May.

## Why now?

All sides are eager to ease tensions that have spiked with the constant drumbeat of North Korean missile tests and a war of words between the North and Trump. The U.S. president has traded threats and personal insults with Kim. The breakthroughs began with North Korea's agreement to join the Winter Olympics, which were held in the South Korean town of Pyeongchang. That led to the first talks between the Koreans in more than two years.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who is eager to prevent another conflict on the divided peninsula, has worked tirelessly to broaden the sports diplomacy to include denuclearization talks with the U.S. South Korean envoys who traveled to Pyongyang last week met with the North Korean leader and announced plans for an inter-Korean summit in

late April. They then traveled to Washington and briefed Trump on their meetings. That was when the president accepted Kim's invitation to meet and directed the South Koreans to announce it Friday at the White House. North Korea watchers have long predicted that last year's election of a left-leaning government in Seoul would lead to new peace initiatives.

## What's different?

The U.S. has not held formal talks with North Korea for more than a decade. The North, meanwhile, has stockpiled an arsenal of nuclear weapons and made strong progress in developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that could deliver them. It test-fired some two dozen missiles last year, including three ICBMs, although experts are divided over how much time it needs to perfect the capability.

The North also conducted its sixth and most powerful underground nuclear test last year. During his New Year's address, Kim declared the country had completed its nuclear force and said "a nuclear button is always on my desk." That prompted Trump to boast his nuclear button "is much bigger and more powerful." Looking past the rhetoric, observers suggest that Kim may feel he finally has sufficient leverage to engage in talks.

In announcing the summit, the South Koreans gave credit to Trump's so-called "maximum pressure" campaign of increased economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation. While past administrations also relied on sanctions, the Trump administration has tightened the noose by moving to close loopholes blocking efforts to cut off North Korea's oil imports and exports of coal and other items that earn much-needed foreign currency. The president also has increased pressure on the Chinese to comply with the measures.

"North Korea is under more

stress and more pressure on a continuous basis than ever before, so time is not on their side," Daniel Davis, a military expert with the conservative U.S. think tank Defense Priorities, said in a telephone interview.

"There is an opportunity here that hasn't existed before," said Davis, a retired lieutenant colonel who served as a U.S. adviser to the South Korean army in the late '90s.

He also noted that Trump's fiery rhetoric with threats to unleash "fire and fury" and to "totally destroy North Korea" if necessary may have pushed North Korea and China to act.

"He's a little more unpredictable, and they may think he may actually use the military option," Davis said.

## Bargaining chips

The sides have expressed intractable positions in recent months, with Trump insisting that North Korea must abandon its nuclear ambitions and Pyongyang insisting its weapons programs aren't up for negotiation.

"The unanswered question going forward is what the United States is willing to put on the table for a negotiation," Victor Cha, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in The New York Times. "In years dealing with North Korea, I have learned that the regime never gives anything away for free."

He said the U.S. could offer incremental energy and economic assistance and the lifting of sanctions for a freeze and eventual dismantlement of the nuclear and missile program. Cha said a second path would be to up the stakes to include the normalization of diplomatic relations and possibly the conclusion of a formal peace treaty ending the Korean War in return for denuclearization.

But Cha and others cautioned that the Trump administration must approach the summit with clear, verifiable objectives or risk failure at a high level that could



KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, KOREA NEWS SERVICE/AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, meets South Korean National Security Director Chung Eui-yong in Pyongyang, North Korea, on March 5.

take other diplomatic options off the table.

"If the meeting actually happens, certainly there is the potential for surprising results ... but there's a lot that could go wrong," said Jenny Town, assistant director of the U.S.-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

"If Trump goes and doesn't come away with something then there's a concern about whether that could legitimize North Korea as a nuclear state," she said. "One of the tangible outcomes could be a commitment to stop some of the material production that could be monitored and verified."

That could be complicated by the fact that the United States is suffering from a dearth of diplomatic expertise following the recent resignation of the chief U.S. envoy on North Korea, Joseph Yun. Trump has yet to name an ambassador to South Korea, a post that has been vacant since he took office. The acting ambassador, Mark Knapper, is widely seen as a capable substitute but lacks the authoritative title that could be important to the North Koreans.

The decision to hold a sum-

mit as a starting point also turns traditional negotiating norms on their head. The U.S. president is usually brought in as a closer after painstaking, lower-level talks to reach hard-won agreements.

## The north's view

North Korea has not formally commented on the latest developments. Kim's invitation and promises were delivered by South Korean National Security Adviser Chung Eui-yong during his meeting with Trump. That leaves open many questions and potentially gives room for the North to maneuver. Analysts noted, for example, that the two sides define denuclearization in different ways.

Duyeon Kim, a senior visiting fellow with the Seoul-based Korean Peninsula Future Forum, said North Koreans want arms control talks that would include the U.S. giving up its nuclear deterrent.

"For Seoul, Washington and Tokyo, on the other hand, 'denuclearization' simply means a nuclear weapons-free North Korea," she wrote in a column for the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

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## MILITARY



SUSAN WALSH/AP

**President Donald Trump holds up a proclamation on steel imports Thursday at the White House. He also signed one for aluminum imports.**

## US mulls tying NATO funding to tariff relief

By JOSH BOAK  
AND KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. allies seeking to avoid the steel and aluminum tariffs approved by President Donald Trump might be asked to step up their financial commitments to NATO.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin told CNBC in a Friday interview that the president will consider national security, noting that Trump wants to be sure that NATO gets more funding from European allies who Trump has previously criticized for not contributing enough.

"If we're in NATO, he wants to make sure that NATO gets more money so that NATO can protect all of us and fulfill its goal," Mnuchin said, underscoring Trump's push to get NATO allies to pay 2 percent on defense.

Trump drew on rarely used national security grounds to place a 25 percent tax on steel imports and 10 percent tax on imported aluminum. Only Canada and Mexico — both partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement being renegotiated —

were excluded from the tariffs.

The Treasury secretary said he has been speaking with his foreign counterparts and "my expectation is there may be some other countries that he considers in the next two weeks."

Other countries seeking exemptions from the tariffs will have to make their case through U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, but the president will make the ultimate decision, a senior administration official told reporters last week. Specific steel and aluminum products could also be excluded, and that authority will rest with Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

The EU has warned that it could retaliate with tariffs on U.S. steel, agricultural and other products, such as peanut butter, cranberries and orange juice.

Trump suggested before he signed the orders imposing the tariffs that Australia and "other countries" could also be exempted. He discussed the tariffs by telephone Friday with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, of Australia, and President Mauricio Macri, of Argentina, the White House said.

# US looks to fix ties with Turkey

Administration's move endangers relationship with Kurdish allies

By KAREN DEYOUNG  
AND KAREEM FAHIM  
The Washington Post

In an effort to repair tattered relations, the Trump administration has told Turkey it will move to rein in Kurdish fighters that have been the backbone of the U.S. campaign against Islamic State in Syria, according to U.S. and Turkish officials.

The first step and "the crux of the matter," a senior Turkish official said, is to withdraw the Kurds from the Syrian town of Manbij and relocate them east of the Euphrates River. The town, about 25 miles from Turkey's border, has come to symbolize the fevered competition for territory and influence in northern Syria among the United States, Turkey and the American powers.

The American pledge, if carried out, would satisfy a long-standing demand by the Turkish government and fulfill a promise first made by the Obama administration to keep the Kurdish forces east of the Euphrates. The Kurds helped to take Manbij from ISIS in 2016 and have been there since.

Turkey has shown no tolerance for any development that strengthens Kurdish political and military groups in Syria, especially along the lengthy border Turkey shares with Syria. Turkey accuses them of being "terrorists" seeking a permanent Kurdish enclave allied with separatist Kurdish militants inside Turkey, known as the Kurdistan Workers' Party.

Officials gave no timeline for moving the Kurds from Manbij to positions east of the Euphrates, 20 miles away, and did not indicate how the relocation would be accomplished. The officials said that would be discussed by newly established working groups from the U.S. and Turkish governments. The first session was held Thursday and Friday in Washington.

This tentative warming of relations, however, is already coming

at a cost to the United States. Saying they feel let down by Washington, U.S.-allied Kurdish forces said last week they are withdrawing from the front lines of the fight against ISIS in southern Syria to join the battle against Turkey in the north.

The United States, which has pursued ISIS forces with single-minded focus, has long insisted the Kurds were the most effective partners in the fight against the militants, despite Turkish complaints.

U.S. commanders on the ground in and around Manbij have previously warned that several hundred American troops deployed there would defend the Kurds against any attack by Turkish troops, now massed a few miles away. Turkish officials were outraged last month when U.S. commanders touring the area with American journalists praised the Kurds and vowed to fight alongside them if there were a Turkish attack.

A shootout between two NATO members, both agree, would be catastrophic.

Beyond quarreling over the Kurds, the United States and Turkey have also traded diplomatic volleys in the aftermath of a coup attempt in Turkey in 2016. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stoked anti-American sentiment at home, and American policymakers have explored the possibility of imposing sanctions on Turkey in response to Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian policies.

The possibility of a deal over Manbij has, at least temporarily, cooled temperatures, according to senior U.S. and Turkish officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity about the still-tenuous rapprochement. The meetings that began last week, which are set to continue in both capitals over the coming months, will deal with a constellation of divisive issues, another senior Turkish of-

ficial said, including the Trump administration's opposition to Turkish plans to buy a Russian surface-to-air missile system.

The Turkish official said "the Americans understand our concerns more clearly" after visits last month to Turkey by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Trump national security adviser H.R. McMaster. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis also met with his Turkish counterpart in Europe.

It is far from clear, though, whether the improvement in relations will last. A senior Trump administration official expressed trepidation about whether the United States could persuade the Kurdish fighters to pull back.

"A lot of our ability to move forward [with Turkey] is going to depend on that, because we did make a commitment to the Turks, and they're going to hold us to it," he said. In return for the original U.S. promise to keep the Kurds clear of Manbij, Turkey has allowed American warplanes to continue using its Incirlik air base to strike ISIS targets in Syria.

"It's tricky for us, because we've spent a lot of years with those guys," the U.S. official said of the Kurds. "Especially in terms of our [American] fighters, we've built profoundly deep personal relationships, and nobody wants to see those erode."

But senior U.S. military officials and diplomats, who describe the partnership with Turkey as paramount, appear to have concluded that they can no longer keep deflecting the complaints of a critical ally.

Other issues dividing Washington and Ankara have also proved daunting, including Turkey's repeated insistence that the United States extradite Fethullah Gulen, a Pennsylvania-based Turkish cleric whom Erdogan accuses of directing the failed coup. U.S. officials have chafed at this pressure to extradite Gulen.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# Mattis to Syria: 'Unwise' to use gas as weapon

By ROBERT BURNS  
Associated Press

MUSCAT, Oman — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on Sunday warned the Syrian government not to use chemical weapons in its civil war and said the Trump administration has made it clear that it would be "very unwise" to use gas in attacks.

Mattis told reporters traveling with him to the Middle East that he was disturbed by reports of civilian casualties from bombings by Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

"Right now, we're getting reports — I don't have evidence that I can show you — but I'm aware of the reports of chlorine gas use," he said before arriving Sunday in Oman.

The U.S. responded militarily last year to reported Syrian government use of sarin gas, and Mattis was asked whether the administration is now considering retaliating for chlorine gas use.

"I'm not going to strictly define it. We have made it very clear that it would be very unwise to use gas" as a weapon, Mattis said.

He said the latest reports of Syrian government forces killing civilians in eastern Ghouta show that troops are "at best, indiscriminately" attacking and "at worst, targeting hospitals. I don't know which it is, whether they're incompetent or whether they're committing illegal acts or both."

The Pentagon chief said Russia, which intervened militarily in Syria to support the Assad gov-

ernment, could be complicit in the civilian casualties.

"Either Russia is incompetent or in cahoots with Assad," Mattis said. "There's an awful lot of reports about chlorine gas use or about symptoms that could be resulting from chlorine gas."

On Sunday, the Russian military said

52 civilians have evacuated from besieged eastern Ghouta suburbs of Syria's capital, Damascus. Russia and the Syrian government have accused rebels of blocking civilians from fleeing the violence.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group says an indiscriminate campaign of government and Russian airstrikes and shelling has killed some 1,100 civilians in rebel-held eastern Ghouta over the past three weeks.

The U.N. estimates 400,000 civilians are trapped in the siege. Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad denied opposition charges that government forces used poisonous gas in their attacks on some suburbs of Damascus.

Mekdad said at a news conference Saturday that insurgent groups in eastern Ghouta are preparing "to fabricate" more such attacks to blame the Syrian army.



Mattis

## Experts say Spanish forts in SC are threatened by erosion

Associated Press

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. — Archaeologists say 16th-century Spanish forts in South Carolina suffer from heavy erosion and could disappear as the seas rise.

Archaeologists are worried about the future of old forts and the Spanish colony of Santa Elena on what is now Parris Island, The Island Packet of Hilton Head reported.

Archaeologists Chester DePratter and Victor Thompson wrote in the journal "Remote Sensing" that the rise of sea levels in Port Royal Sound would erase the opportunity to learn about the Spanish colony. DePratter and Thompson say the site could be gone by the end of this century and possibly sooner. "Once these structures are

gone, the opportunity to learn from them is gone as well," the men wrote.

The Spanish occupied Santa Elena almost continuously from 1566 until 1587.

The archaeologists have worked with the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on the site under the depot golf course.

The archaeologists say identifying the buildings and tying them to a specific time period is difficult. Part of the problem is the site was also used by Native Americans, French and Spanish settlers, Civil War-era plantation owners and now the federal government to train Marines.

The scientists, the Santa Elena Foundation and the University of South Carolina announced in 2016 they had discovered Fort San Marcos, founded in 1577.



## Hardware on display in Iraq

Above: Iraqi military vehicles are on display during the seventh annual weapons exhibition organized by the Iraqi Ministry of Defense at Baghdad International Fairgrounds on Sunday. Left: Visitors look at a laser-guided projectile at the event.

PHOTOS BY KARIN KADIM/AP

## Marines make key change to rare, high-level court-martial over hazing

By WADE LIVINGSTON  
The (Hilton Head Island, S.C.) Island Packet

The Marine Corps has made a change to a rare, high-level court-martial originally scheduled to overlap with the two-year anniversary of the controversial death of a former Marine trainee.

While the Corps won't explain the variance, at least two military law experts say it likely indicates a forthcoming guilty plea.

Lt. Col. Joshua Kissoon — the highest-ranking Marine implicated in the recruit hazing and abuse scandal in the wake of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island trainee Raheel Siddiqui's March 18, 2016, death — was until recently scheduled to stand trial by general court-martial during a 10-day period, from March 12 to 21 at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia.

Now, however, the trial is slated for a single day, according to the government's court docket and confirmed by Marine Corps Training and Education Command spokesman Capt. Joshua Pena. That date is Monday, Pena said, confirming that it was, indeed, a scheduling change.

When asked further about the change, Pena said Uniform Code

of Military Justice procedures prevented him from commenting.

Brian Magee, a Beaufort, S.C., attorney and a Marine Corps veteran who once served as Parris Island's lead

prosecutor, said the change likely indicates a plea. "Reading the tea leaves on that," Magee said, "the only logical explanation [of the scheduling change] is that it's going to be a guilty plea."

He could not think of anything else the move could indicate. "A trial of that magni-

tude I would expect no less than a week (of court time)," he said. The court-martial of a field-grade officer such as Kissoon is a rarity, according to the Corps.

On March 31, 2016, Parris Island officials announced the relief of command of Kissoon — then-commander of 3rd Recruit Training Battalion — a decision the depot said was made two weeks

earlier, on the day before Siddiqui's death.

Siddiqui, a trainee in that unit, died after a nearly 40-foot fall from his third-floor barracks. His death was ruled a suicide by Beaufort County Coroner Ed Allen. Shortly before the fall, Siddiqui's senior drill instructor, then-Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Felix, was witnessed forcefully slapping the recruit, who had collapsed in the squad bay during a series of punitive sprits.

In a November court-martial at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Felix was convicted of abusing Siddiqui and targeting two additional Muslim recruits in earlier hazing incidents by ordering them into commercial clothes dryers. Felix was sentenced to 10 years in prison and slapped with a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of pay and reduction in rank to private.

Kissoon faces court-martial for failing to sideline Felix, who should not have been supervising Siddiqui's platoon because he was being investigated for the dryer incidents, according to the Corps.

"Usually, when a weeklong trial becomes a one-day trial, (that means) it's a guilty plea," said Charleston, S.C., attorney and former Navy lawyer Michael Hanzel.



## MILITARY

# DOD high school becomes Hogwarts

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and stripes

ANSBACH, Germany — Students and faculty at Ansbach Middle High School cast a charm on their school to transform it into the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry to celebrate Read Across America last week.

Read Across America is a nationwide day to celebrate reading, usually done on Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2. However, since so many of the students and faculty are avid Harry Potter fans, Ansbach decided to go with the J.K. Rowling books instead of the traditional Dr. Seuss theme.

Throughout the week, students were sorted into Hogwarts houses and collected "house points" for dressing up as characters, answering Harry Potter trivia and participating in challenges that encouraged students to read the books.

"It's not about whether you're as much of a Harry Potter fan as some of the teachers or other students; it's about being passionate about reading," language arts teacher Daren Schuettelpelz told his students at an assembly.

The weeklong enchanted transformation concluded with a game of Quidditch that pitted the class houses against one another to the cheers of many dressed as char-



Students and teachers at Ansbach Middle High School play a game of Quidditch during the school's Harry Potter week to support Read Across America at Ansbach, Germany, on Friday.

PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes



Students and teachers at Ansbach Middle High School decorated their classrooms as places found in the wizarding world of Harry Potter.

acters from the Harry Potter series.

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Students and teachers at the school dressed as characters from the Harry Potter book series.

## US soldier found dead at base in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — A soldier assigned to the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade was found dead Friday at Camp Carroll, a U.S. base south of Seoul, the military said.

The cause of death is under investigation, and the soldier's name as to be withheld until 24 hours after family is notified, according to the brigade's public affairs office.

More details were not provided.

Some 28,500 U.S. servicemembers are based in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 conflict between the two countries ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

## Army airdrop lands on Hawaii school campus

HONOLULU — Authorities say an Army airdrop missed its target at a military training area and landed on the campus of a Hawaii elementary school.

Officials with the 25th Infantry Division say the package was parachuted from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as part of a training exercise Thursday.

Instead of landing at the Marine Corps Training Area Below on the island of Oahu, the package fell onto the campus of the nearby Waimanalo Elementary and Intermediate School.

Authorities say the drop did not cause any injuries or property damage. The package contained a tent and some batteries.

Honolulu police recovered the equipment and returned it to the Army.

Army officials say the incident is under review to learn how to prevent it from happening again.

From staff and wire reports

# Hawaii Guard to build \$800K warehouse at Big Island live-fire area

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Hawaii Army National Guard will build an \$800,000 warehouse to store equipment and supplies at a Big Island live-fire training area that has been the focus of local protests for the past decade.

The warehouse to be built at the Pohakuloa Training Area will allow the Guard to house vehicles, artillery equipment and other training supplies on the Big Island, saving time and money in moving gear between islands.

"Although the [Hawaii Guard] conducts training at Schofield Barracks on Oahu and at the PTA, PTA is approximately 133,000 acres, offering a significantly larger area for training," Maj. Gen. Arthur Logan, adjutant general of the Hawaii Guard, wrote in the funding request to the state.

The frequency of the Guard's training at PTA varies year to year, with two battalions and a squadron slated for annual training there this year, Logan said.

Roughly 13,000 soldiers and Marines train at PTA each year. It plays a major role in the biennial Rim of the Pacific exercises. Some local activists have opposed the continued use of PTA for live-fire training



ARMANDO LIMON/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers with the 25th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team maneuver during an exercise last spring at Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawaii.

and the Army's plans to modernize and expand it.

The Army, which operates PTA, is in the midst of a seven-year, multimillion-dollar upgrade of the cantonment area. Plans

include razing more than 100 1950s-era Quonset huts to build modern barracks.

In recent years activists with the local group Maui 'Aina have argued that PTA should be shut down because of possible

radioactive contamination by depleted uranium used in weapons training there during the 1960s.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission last year declined the activists' request to require more stringent monitoring for contamination by the Army.

The Hawaii Guard's new warehouse will be built on PTA acreage owned by the federal government. Other parts of the training area are leased by the government.

The state is funding construction of the warehouse, and the contract is required to be awarded to a small business owned by a disabled veteran, Logan said.

It is the first phase of a \$2.5 million project on two acres of land, he said.

Future phases include a federally funded maintenance facility and a second storage warehouse to be funded by the state.

"The Hawaii Army National Guard's role in ensuring safety and security for our islands and throughout the Pacific Rim is critically important, particularly during these tenuous political times," state Sen. Lorraine Inouye, who represents Big Island districts, said in a statement issued by the state Senate.

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## NATION

# Vet had sought treatment from California center

By MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

When Albert Wong returned from an Army deployment in Afghanistan in 2013, he knew it had affected him. He had trouble adjusting to regular life, couldn't sleep at night and was hypervigilant about his surroundings.

But when he found a treatment program for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars who suffer from post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injuries, he saw it as a way to get help and readjust to civilian life, said Cissy Sherr, who was his legal guardian and raised him for several years as a child. Until he was recently expelled.

On Friday, police said Wong slipped into a going-away party at the program, The Pathway Home, and took three employees hostage. After an hours-long standoff, Wong and the three female workers, one of whom was pregnant, were all found dead.

As a child, Wong had always dreamed of joining the Army, said Sherr, who began caring for him when he was 6 after his father died and his mother developed medical issues.

"He had a lot of role models in the Army," Sherr said Saturday in an interview with The Associated Press. "He was patriotic and he wanted to do that forever."

Sherr and her husband raised Wong for several years, enrolled him in Catholic school and signed him up for baseball, basketball and track teams. Together, they

traveled to Florida, Hawaii and Boston, where he experienced snow for the first time.

"He was a pretty happy-go-lucky kid," Sherr said. "He always had a smile on his face."

When Wong became a teenager and Sherr and her husband worked full-time, they decided to put him in foster care. He stayed with a foster father in San Francisco who had other teenage boys and he attended high school near San Francisco.

Wong served in the Army Reserve from 1998 until 2002, enlisted for active duty in May 2010 and was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011, according to military records.

He was a decorated soldier and was awarded the Expert Marksmanship Badge. But that also meant Wong was tasked with dangerous assignments, where he saw "really horrible things" that affected his mental well-being, Sherr said. He sometimes called her before he'd go on a mission, when Army officials told the soldiers to call their families.

"I had the impression he was kind of put in harm's way, knowing that he didn't have a family," she said. "He didn't seem the least bit resentful."

Sherr said after Wong was honorably discharged from the Army in 2013, he planned to enroll in school and earn a degree in computer programming and business.

"He loved computers and he



JOSH EDELSON/AP

Resident Tom Parkinson places flowers on a sign at the Veterans Home of California the morning after a hostage situation in Yountville, Calif., on Saturday.

liked music. He was thoughtful and independent," Sherr said. "He didn't have a traditional upbringing but still he became a fine young man."

Wong, who had a passion for working out at the gym, would often bring his ailing mother her favorite foods and spent a lot of time with her before she died last year, Sherr said.

But post-traumatic stress affected his ability to adjust to everyday life, Sherr said. He had trouble sleeping and was always wary of his surroundings.

"I think he realized that it started to catch up with him," she said. "A couple of years ago, he told us if a door opens unexpectedly, I ask, 'What is that?'"

Wong told Sherr he had found a program at the veterans home in Yountville, Calif., and had met

people who helped him enroll in a treatment program. He was also receiving assistance at a veterans hospital in San Francisco, she said.

He told Sherr, "I think I'm going to get a lot of help from this program," she said, seeing the program as a possible path to recovery with other veterans in a similar position.

Officials have declined to provide additional information about why Wong was thrown out of the group.

But they say the former Army rifleman went to the center about 50 miles north of San Francisco Friday morning before exchanging gunfire with police and holding the women hostage in a room inside the center.

The victims were identified as Executive Director Christine

Loeber, 48; Clinical Director Jennifer Golick, 42; and Jennifer Gonzales Shushereba, 32, a clinical psychologist with the San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System who was seven months pregnant.

After the shooting, John Dunbar, the mayor of Yountville and a member of The Pathway Home's board of directors, said Wong was "one of our heroes who clearly had demons."

The shooting has left Sherr with more questions than answers. Chief among them: Why did it happen and could more have been done to help Wong?

"In less than a year — less than half a year — things started to unravel," she said. "He may have been without any resources to support him."

## Shooter gunned down women who had devoted lives to vets

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
Associated Press

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. — Three women, including one who was pregnant, who devoted their lives to helping traumatized veterans were killed by a patient who had been kicked out of their Northern California treatment program, authorities and a relative of a victim said.

A daylong siege at The Pathway Home ended Friday evening with the discovery of four bodies, including the gunman. He was identified as Albert Wong, 36, a former Army rifleman who served a year in Afghanistan in 2011-12.

Investigators were still trying to determine when and why Wong killed two executives and a psychologist at The Pathway Home, a nonprofit post-traumatic stress disorder program at the Veterans Home of California-Yountville in the Napa Valley wine country region.

It was "far too early to say if they were chosen at random" because investigators had not yet determined a motive, California Highway Patrol Assistant Chief Chris Childs said.

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered flags flown at half-staff at the Capitol in memory of the victims. They were identified as The Pathway Home Executive Director Christine Loeber, 48; Clinical Director Jennifer Golick, 42; and Jennifer Gonzales Shushereba, 32, a clinical psychologist with the San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System who was seven months pregnant.



Golick

Shushereba

Loeber

"The three women that were lost yesterday dedicated their lives to helping our veterans. They lived their lives selflessly to serve others," Yountville Mayor John Dunbar, who is also a board member of The Pathway Home, said Saturday. "We also lost one of our heroes who clearly had demons that resulted in the terrible tragedy that we all experienced here."

Loeber, who had taken over The Pathway Home 18 months ago, was known by all as dedicated and caring.

"She would sleep in her office more often than not because she had to be there to fill a shift; that's the kind of personal dedication she showed all of us," Dunbar said.

Mother-to-be Shushereba was supposed to travel to Washington over the weekend to celebrate her wedding anniversary, family friend Vasiti Ritova said.

Golick's father-in-law, Mike Golick, said in an interview she had recently expelled Wong from the program.

Wong went to the campus about 53 miles north of San Francisco on Friday morning, slipping into a going-away party for some employees of The Pathway Home.

Larry Kamer told The Associated Press that his wife, Devereaux Smith, called him to say that the gunman had entered the room quietly, letting some people leave while taking others hostage.

Golick called her husband, Mark, to say that she had been taken hostage by the former soldier, her father-in-law said.

Mark Golick didn't hear from her again.

Sandra Woodford, an Army veteran who was working across the street at the crafts center, heard the gunfire from her vantage about 150 feet away.

Inside The Pathway Home facility, "we heard this racket, this rapid live fire of rounds going on, at least 12," she said.

"Boom, boom, boom, boom," she said. "There was that initial fire burst. Then, not a peep."

President Donald Trump tweeted Saturday morning, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic situation in Yountville and mourn the loss of three incredible women who cared for our Veterans."

The bodies of Wong and the women were found about 6 p.m. While authorities had the building under siege for about eight hours, they didn't enter it.



## NATION

# Schools brace for student walkouts over gun violence

By DENISE LAVOIE  
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — As schools around the country brace for student walkouts following the deadly shooting in Parkland, Fla., principals and superintendents are scrambling to perform a delicate balancing act: how to let thousands of students exercise their First Amendment rights while not disrupting school and not pulling administrators into the raging debate over gun control.

Some have taken a hard line, promising to suspend students who walk out, while others are using a softer approach, working with students to set up places on campus where they can remember the victims of the Florida shooting and express their views about school safety and gun control.

Since the Feb. 14 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, demonstrations have sprung up on school campuses around the country. But the first large-scale, coordinated national demonstration is planned for Wednesday, when organizers of the Women's March have called for a 17-minute walkout, one minute for each of the 17 students and staff members killed in Florida.

National demonstrations are also planned for March 24, with a march in Washington, and on April 20, the 19th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre in Colorado.

No matter how schools decide

to deal with the demonstrations, students have been reassured by Harvard, Yale, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Connecticut, UCLA and dozens of other colleges and universities that their participation won't affect their chances of getting admitted.

But for middle school and high school administrators, figuring out

**'It's important for me to speak my mind on this topic.'**

**Layla Deffibaugh**  
eighth-grader at  
Arizona middle school

how to allow the demonstrations during school hours has proven challenging. In some cases, it hasn't gone smoothly.

In Needville, Texas, near Houston, Superintendent Curtis Rhodes was castigated on social media after he warned that students who leave class would be suspended for three days, even if they get parental permission.

"SHAME, SHAME, SHAME ON YOU!" wrote one woman. In Garrettsville, S.D., administrators canceled a student walkout planned for April 20 after a Facebook posting about the plan drew more than 300 negative comments from adults.

And in Arizona, dozens of students at Ingleside Middle School, near Phoenix, were given one-day



CRAIG F. WALKER, THE BOSTON GLOBE/AP

Somerville High School junior Megan Barnes marches with others during a Feb. 28 student walkout at the school in Somerville, Mass.

suspensions after they left campus on Feb. 27.

Layla Deffibaugh, an eighth-grade student at Ingleside, said she wanted to participate in the walkout but didn't because of the threatened suspensions. She does plan to join the Wednesday walkout, even if it means getting suspended.

"It's important for me to speak my mind on this topic," she said. "At the end of the day, they shouldn't be able to punish us for exercising our First Amendment rights."

AASA, the School Superintendents Association, has fielded dozens of calls and emails from school administrators asking for advice, while the American Civil Liberties Union has received hundreds of inquiries from students about what their rights are and if they can be disciplined for participating in the protests.

The answer depends on each school's code of conduct and disciplinary policies. Generally, the ACLU has been advising students that because they are required to go to school by law, administrators can discipline them from unexcused absences. But the ACLU also told students in an online

training video that administrators can't punish them more harshly because of the political nature of their demonstrations.

The superintendents association — which is supporting the April 20 walkout — has drafted a list of suggestions for school administrators, including holding a teach-in, a school-led walkout to a spot on campus or a session on bullying.

"There are ways to engage and harness the students in civic engagement without compromising policies in place on attendance, participation and student safety," said Noelle Ellerson, N.S. associate director for policy and advocacy.

Some schools have embraced the walkouts.

In Mooresville, Ind., administrators met with 10 high school student leaders to work out a plan. Mooresville High School Principal Brian Disney said the students plan to use the school's public address system to read short statements about mental illness, the importance of kindness and standing up against all school violence before inviting all students to gather in a school hallway for 17 minutes of silence.

## White House may expand its legal team

By ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN  
AND CAROL D. LEONNIG  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The White House has reached out to a veteran Washington lawyer with experience assisting presidents under investigation to see if he would join the legal team helping President Donald Trump deal with the special counsel probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

A person familiar with the overture said Emmet Flood, a partner at the firm Williams and Connolly, met last week in the Oval Office with Trump to discuss the offer.

The person said the discussions were preliminary. They were first reported by The New York Times.

Ty Cobb, a White House lawyer who had been leading Trump's response to the probe, has been pre-designated that special counsel Robert Mueller III's probe is almost over. He has advised the president and by Christmas, then later said by Jan. 1. The outreach to Flood is a sign that the White House has recognized the investigation is likely going to continue for some time.

Cobb has said he has no immediate plans to leave, but has always told the president he views his job as temporary and will stay until his work is done. He has said that his work will be finished when the president's interview is complete and all the White House witnesses have been interviewed by the special counsel, tested by the FBI. Flood is now negotiating with Mueller over a possible interview with the president.

Cobb and Flood each declined to comment when reached Saturday.

One White House adviser said Flood could also be considered for the job of White House counsel.

On Sunday, Trump tweeted that it was "wrong" to say he was unhappy with the legal team handling the Russia matter and considering adding another lawyer. "I am VERY happy with my lawyers John Dowd, Ty Cobb and Jay Sekulow. They are doing a great job and have shown conclusively that there was no Collusion with Russia," he wrote.

Though a Republican, Flood worked for President Bill Clinton during his 1998 impeachment proceedings. He also served in the White House Counsel's Office under President George W. Bush and has represented former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Flood was interviewed over the summer about joining the White House Counsel's Office to manage the special counsel probe. He was one of more than half a dozen top lawyers to decline to assist Trump.

But there have been significant changes to Trump's legal advice since last year. Marc Kasowitz, a New York litigator with a conservative reputation who had represented Trump in business disputes, was replaced as head of Trump's personal legal team by Dowd, who had deeper Washington experience. He is assisted by Sekulow, who is known for his combative organizations in civil litigations.

## Gun background check system riddled with flaws

By MARTHA BELLISLE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Recent mass shootings have spurred Congress to try to improve the nation's gun background check system that has failed on numerous occasions to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

The problem with the legislation, experts say, is that it only works if federal agencies, the military, states, courts and local law enforcement do a better job of sharing information with the background check system — and they have a poor track record in doing so. Some of the nation's most horrific mass shootings have revealed major holes in the database reporting system, including massacres at Arizona Tech in 2007 and at a Texas church last year.

Despite the failures, many states still aren't meeting key benchmarks with their background-check reporting that enable them to receive federal grants similar to what's being proposed in the



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Dana Pattie kneels at a blocklong fence at Marysville-Pilchuck High School memorializing a shooting there as a couple walks past on Oct. 29, 2014, in Marysville, Wash.

current legislation.

"It's a completely haphazard system — sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't," said Georgetown University law professor Larry Gostin. "When you're talking about schoolchildren's lives, roll-

ing the dice isn't good enough."

In theory, the FBI's background check database, tapped by gun dealers during a sale, should have a definitive list of people who are prohibited from having guns, people who have been convicted

of crimes, committed to mental institutions, received dishonorable discharges or are addicted to drugs.

But in practice, the database is incomplete.

It's up to local police, sheriff's offices, the military, federal and state courts, Indian tribes and, in some places, hospitals and treatment providers to send criminal or mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, but some don't always do so or they may not send them in a timely fashion.

Some agencies don't know what to send; states often lack funds needed to ensure someone handles the data; no system of audits exists to find out who's not reporting; and some states lack the political will to set up a functioning and efficient reporting process, experts said.

"The system is riddled with opportunities for human error," said Kristin Brown, co-president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

## NATION

# Trump rallies for Pa. GOP House candidate

By BILL BARROW and JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

MOON TOWNSHIP, Pa. — President Donald Trump told western Pennsylvania voters Saturday night that his new tariffs were saving the steel industry and urged them to send a Republican to the House so he can keep delivering results.

The president lent his weight to Republican Rick Saccone in the final days of a surprisingly competitive special election outside Pittsburgh that could reverberate nationally ahead of the midterm elections.

Trump unabashedly framed the race as a tune-up for the GOP's efforts to keep its control of Congress. He also touted his planned 2020 slogan, "Keep America Great!"

But, the president warned, "We can only do that if we elect people who are going to back our agenda," repeatedly urging his backers to support Saccone in a district the president won by 70 percentage points over Hillary Clinton.

Democrats need to flip 24 GOP-held seats to claim a House majority. A victory in such a Republican-leaning district would boost their hopes for November.

Conor Lamb, 33, a Marine veteran and former prosecutor, has positioned himself as more representative of the district than Saccone, 60, a state lawmaker. Lamb touts his resume and declares he wouldn't vote for Democratic House leader Nancy Pelosi as party leader. He avoids criticizing Trump.

Trump conceded Lamb might not back

Pelosi but said most House Democrats will. And if Pelosi were in charge, Trump said, Lamb would simply "vote the party line."

While Trump was ostensibly in Pennsylvania for Saccone, the rally was as much about the president as it was the congressional candidate. The president reminisced about his election when Pennsylvania helped put him over the top after decades of landing in the Democrats' column.

The president criticized Democrats for blocking his long-promised border wall and attacked so-called sanctuary cities that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration authorities. He also called for harsher punishments for drug dealers, including the death penalty.

Trump continued his attacks on the press, criticizing media coverage of his decision to meet with the leader of North Korea and complaining that he doesn't get credit for accomplishments. He singled out NBC's Chuck Todd as a "sleeping son of a bitch."

He also made sure the workers in this industrial-heavy region see the new steel tariffs as "my baby," even as Lamb and Saccone have endorsed the move. Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District has an estimated 17,000 steelworkers and almost 90,000 voters from union households.

Trump's appearance was part of a White House push to help Saccone avoid a once-unlikely defeat. National GOP forces could exceed \$10 million in spending on the race, and Saturday was the president's second recent visit to the area. Trump risked another embarrassing defeat after backing Repub-



KEITH SRACOCIC/AP

President Donald Trump, right, talks with Republican House candidate Rick Saccone during a campaign rally on Saturday in Moon Township, Pa.

lican Roy Moore in December's Alabama Senate election, only to watch Moore lose a seat his party had held since 1997.

The Pennsylvania special election is to replace Republican Rep. Tim Murphy, who resigned last year amid revelations of an extramarital affair in which the anti-abortion lawmaker urged his mistress to get an abortion when he thought she was pregnant.

Murphy, an eight-term congressman who had union support, never had a close elec-

tion and had no Democratic challenger in his last two elections. But Saccone has struggled with his own fundraising, is a union foe and has started out as aggressive campaign as Lamb, prompting criticism from Republicans in Washington who quietly concede Lamb is a stronger candidate.

Trump acknowledged those dynamics, noting talk of Lamb as a handsome candidate. He said he thinks he's better looking and added Saccone "is handsome" too.

## Democrats pledge to limit superdelegates

By BILL BARROW  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic Party's hierarchy on Saturday acknowledged the "perceived influence" of insiders over voters in picking a presidential nominee but don't know yet how to settle an issue that bedeviled the nomination fight between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders in 2016.

At issue is the role of Democratic National Committee members, elected officials and other party dignitaries — known as superdelegates at presidential conventions. They overwhelmingly favored Clinton, who won the nomination, though her wide advantage among this group ultimately saddled her with charges of favoritism.

The DNC, at its winter meeting, approved language that simply committed the party to reducing the "perceived influence" of those party leaders in the nominating process, a goal that both Clinton and Sanders endorsed during the 2016 convention.

How to do that, the DNC didn't say. The next chance comes this summer when a party committee digs into the matter again.

DNC Chairman Tom Perez insists the party "will improve the democratic process" before 2020.

Along with changing superdelegate rules, the party is promising to retol its system of nominating caucuses and primaries, with the goal of making them more accessible to voters, including newcom-

ers to Democratic politics.

Perez frames the overall effort as necessary to prevent the resentments that weighed down Clinton in 2016.

"If we're going to win elections, you've got to earn the trust of voters, and many voters had a crisis of confidence in the Democratic Party," Perez told The Associated Press, adding that the notion of DNC players "putting their thumb on the scale" had "a lot of negative consequences."

Superdelegates are convention delegates by virtue of some official post: DNC members; governors; members of Congress; party elders, including past presidents and vice presidents; and other national party leaders. Superdelegates get to vote as they please.

In 2016, Clinton won at least 3 million more primary votes than Sanders nationally, giving her a clear lead among pledged voters, but she lost to Trump, the overwhelming majority of the votes at the Philadelphia convention.

Sanders' backers, however, cried foul over her strategy to rack up early superdelegate endorsements and claim a significant delegate lead before any primary or caucus ballots were cast.

Some DNC members want to bar superdelegates altogether from the first convention ballot. That would mean a candidate would win the nomination with a majority of pledged delegates who are bound by voters' preferences. More privately, other DNC



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez is promising Democrats will curtail superdelegates' role at the 2020 nominating convention.

members defend the existing system, saying they've earned the right through years of work in the party to have the freedom to vote how they please at the convention.

A special party commission last fall recommended a compromise.

The group, appointed by Sanders, Clinton and Perez, proposed tying most DNC members' nominating votes on the first convention ballot to the primary and caucus results. But elected officials who are convention delegates would retain their unpledged status. That irritated state party leaders who don't want elected officials to get special treatment.

The DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee set aside that framework last week, opting instead for the generic endorsement of reducing superdelegates' "perceived influence." The committee will take up the matter again this summer.

## Ky. man pleads guilty to attacking Sen. Rand Paul

By BRUCE SCHREINER  
Associated Press

Sen. Rand Paul's neighbor pleaded guilty Friday to a federal charge for tackling the lawmaker in an attack his attorney says was triggered by a dispute over lawn maintenance.

Rene Boucher entered the guilty plea in federal court in Bowling Green, Ky., to a charge of assaulting a member of Congress. Paul suffered broken ribs in the attack last year.

"He is looking forward to closure on all of this once and for all," said Boucher's attorney, Matt Baker. "He still feels as though he has the weight of the world on his shoulders."

A judge set a June 15 sentencing date for the retired anesthesiologist in his late 50s. Federal prosecutors have signaled they will seek a 21-month prison sentence. Baker said he will ask for probation. The charge carries up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Boucher also agreed to pay restitution to Paul, according to media reports. The amount will be determined at sentencing.

Paul, a former presidential candidate, was attacked Nov. 3 while mowing his lawn at his home. A close friend of Paul's said the Republican senator had gotten off his riding lawn mower to remove a limb when he was tackled from behind. Paul has said he never saw the attacker because he was

facing downhill and wearing ear protection from the noise of his lawn mower.

Paul suffered multiple broken ribs in the attack. He returned to Washington less than two weeks later but developed pneumonia when he returned to Kentucky.

Paul has said he's recovering well from the attack.

Some residents of the gated neighborhood in Bowling Green had speculated the attack was motivated by a dispute over yard debris.

Baker said Friday that the attack was a "complete lapse in judgment" by Boucher.

He and his neighbor have had a long-standing disagreement, and it just finally boiled over, over this yard issue," the attorney said in a phone interview.

In comments to police, Boucher indicated the attack was not politically motivated, according to court documents. Instead, it had to do with a property dispute, they said.

Boucher is free on bond and living in his house next to the senator's home, Baker said. The conditions include that Boucher have no contact with Paul or the senator's family. That included Boucher's daily walks with his dog. He agreed to either follow a route that takes him away from Paul's home, or to take his dog to a nearby park, Baker said.

In arguing for no prison time, Baker said, he'll note that Boucher's record had consisted of a speeding ticket before the attack.

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Vol. 1—No. 241

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Sunday, March 25, 1945

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## WORLD

# How Putin made Russia a resurgent superpower

BY ANGELA CHARLTON  
AND NAIRA DAVLASHVILI  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Vladimir Putin and his Russia look more invincible than at any other time in his 18 years in power.

Since he last faced election in 2012, Russians have invaded Ukraine, annexed Crimea, blanket-bombed Syria, been accused of meddling in the U.S. presidential election and claimed to have a scary new nuclear arsenal.

"No one listened to us. You listen to us now," he said earlier this month in boasting about those new weapons.

Putin will overwhelmingly win re-election as president on March 18, again. So why bother holding a vote at all?

He disdains democracy as messy and dangerous — yet he craves the legitimacy conferred by an election. He needs tangible evidence that Russians need him and his great-power vision more than they worry about the freedoms he has muffled, the endemic corruption he has failed to eradicate, the sanctions he invited by his actions in Crimea and Ukraine.

"Any autocrat wants love," said analyst Andrei Kolesnikov, of the Carnegie Moscow Center, and Putin gets that love "from high support in elections."

Expected to win as much as 80 percent of the vote, Putin will further cement his authority over Russia, a czarlike figure with a democratic veneer.

In 14 years as president and four years as prime minister of the world's largest country, Putin has transformed Russia's global image, consolidated power over its politics and economy, imprisoned opponents, offered asylum to Edward Snowden, quieted extremism in long-restive Chechnya, hosted the world's most expensive Olympic Games and won the right to stage this year's World Cup.

He's now 65, and he's not planning to leave anytime soon.

The election will confirm Putin's argument that to improve life in Russia, the

**“The international environment is an instrument for him in managing those domestic challenges first and foremost. He can declare something like a Syria intervention or something in the post-Soviet space.”**

**Matthew Rojansky**  
director of the Kennan Institute

country needs continuity more than it needs drastic change, independent media, political opposition, environmental activism or rights for homosexuals and other minorities.

Russia will remain disproportionately dependent on oil prices, and its 144 million people will stay poorer than they should be. They also will still be convinced that the world is out to get them.

Putin's most important mission in the next six years will be working out a plan for what happens when his next term expires in 2024. Will he appoint a friendly successor or invent a scheme that allows him to keep holding the reins?

Today's all-powerful Putin bears little resemblance to the man who took his tentative first steps as president on the eve of the new millennium.

Catalyzed to power on Boris Yeltsin's surprise resignation as president, Putin walked into his new office Dec. 31, 1999, in a suit that seemed too big for his shoulders. His low-level KGB background made him seem shifty, and many Russians regarded him as little more than a puppet of the oligarchs then pulling the strings in the Kremlin.

Russia was still emerging from a tumultuous post-Soviet hangover. Contract killings dominated headlines, its army couldn't afford costs for its soldiers and its budget was still dependent on foreign loans.

Eighteen years later, Putin's friends run the economy, and Russia's military is resurgent.

An entire generation has never known a Russia without Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in charge. And an increasing number of other leaders — President Donald Trump among them — are emulating his nationalist, fortress mentality.

The once-feisty Russian media has fallen silent. Kremlin propaganda now has a global audience, via far-reaching networks RT and Sputnik.

Yet while Putin looks invulnerable on the surface, he has reason to worry.

The Kremlin is lashing out at opposition leader Alexei Navalny's recent investigations of corruption, fearing they could spur public uproar. And the battle for succession threatens to cause damaging splits within Putin's inner circle.

Meanwhile, Russia's disillusioned youth could turn against him. Some have joined Navalny's protests; others just won't bother to vote, quietly sapping his power.

As Putin faces challenges at home, expect more Russian chest-thumping abroad.

"The international environment is an instrument for him in managing those domestic challenges first and foremost," said Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute in Washington. "He can declare something like a Syria intervention or something in the post-Soviet space."

And a newly elected Putin is likely to continue the Cold War-like relationship with Trump's United States.

Russia sees the investigation into alleged meddling in the U.S. election as concocted — but also as a sign that Russia is impor-

tant again, and that Americans are obsessed with weakening Russia at all costs.

Ever since a leading U.S. diplomat was recorded giving instructions to Ukrainian opposition figures, Russians have been convinced that Washington caused the Ukraine conflict by messing in Russia's backyard, and that America bears responsibility for the ensuing fighting.

Russia's annexation of Crimea prompted U.S. and European Union sanctions, sending Putin's popularity skyrocketing.

Crimea is framed as Russia's biggest victory in the Putin era, a righting of historical wrongs. To drive the message home, the March 18 election is being held on the fourth anniversary of the takeover.

The last time Putin faced voters, he also was guaranteed victory but was on shakier ground. A movement led by Navalny had brought masses to the streets of Moscow and other cities as the educated middle class chafed at Putin's backward-looking vision.

Since then, Navalny has been arrested repeatedly and is barred from running for president on political convictions that are seen as politically driven. Other opposition figures also have been sidelined, such as onetime billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who spent 10 years in prison for tax fraud charges seen as punishment for political ambitions. He now lives abroad.

Meanwhile, Russia's problems persist. Putin has barely bothered with campaigning. When he does, he promises a brighter future, implicitly acknowledging a lackluster present.

With around 20 million Russians currently living below the official poverty line of about \$180 a month, he pledges higher wages and pensions. He wants better health care to boost life expectancy from 73, several years below European levels. Recent space launch failures have drawn attention to troubles with the struggling aerospace industry, once a pillar of Soviet pride, and he wants Russia to catch up on robotic technologies and artificial intelligence.

## Chinese lawmakers pass amendment ending presidential term limits

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEN  
Associated Press

BEIJING — China's rubber-stamp lawmakers on Sunday passed a historic constitutional amendment abolishing presidential term limits, enabling President Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely.

The National People's Congress' nearly 3,000 hand-picked delegates endorsed the constitutional amendment, voting 2,958 in favor with two opposed, three abstaining and one vote invalidated.

The amendment upends a system enacted by former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to prevent a return to the lifelong dictatorship typified by Mao Zedong's chaotic 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. The constitution had limited presidents to serving only two consecutive terms.

Voting began in the mid-afternoon with Xi leading members of the seven-member all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee in casting their votes. He placed his orange ballot paper in a red box bearing the official seal of state placed front and center on the stage inside the cavernous hall.

Xi took the time to then rise to vote on the floor of the

hall as jaunty instrumental music played. Ten minutes later, the process had ended, and delegates were asked to return to their seats while the votes were counted.

Shortly after 3:50 p.m. the results were read out over the public address system and flashed briefly on a screen in the hall.

"The constitutional amendment item has passed," the announcer declared to polite applause.

The slide toward one-man rule under Xi has fueled concern that Beijing is eroding efforts to guard against the excesses of autocratic leadership and make economic regulation more stable and predictable.

In a sign of the issue's sensitivity, the government censors are aggressively scrubbing social media of expressions ranging from "I disagree" to "Xi Zedong." A number of prominent Chinese figures have publicly protested the move, despite the risk of official retaliation.

The legislature's spokesman has said the abolishing of term limits is aimed only at bringing the office of the president in line with Xi's other positions atop the ruling Communist Party and the Central Military Commission,

which do not impose term limits.

The move is widely seen as the culmination of the 64-year-old Xi's efforts since being appointed leader of the party in 2012 to concentrate power in his own hands and defy norms of collective leadership established over the past two decades. Xi has appointed himself to head bodies that oversee national security, finance, economic reform and other major initiatives, effectively sidelining the party's No. 2 figure, Premier Li Keqiang.

To be sure, Xi's confident, populist leadership style and tough attitude toward official corruption has won him a significant degree of popular support.

Zhao Minglin, 32, a vice president of an investment firm in Beijing, said it was easier for Xi to raise his ambitious vision of raising living standards in China if more power were concentrated in his hands.

"I will definitely support this constitutional amendment and this government. This is a powerful and strong government," Zhao said. He added, however, that he was concerned that the public discourse lacked a space for dissenting voices.



AP/WIDE WORLD

Chinese President Xi Jinping casts his vote during a plenary session of the National People's Congress for an amendment to China's constitution that will abolish term limits on the presidency.

## WORLD



IORI SAGISAWA, KYODO NEWS/AP

People in Kesenuma, northern Japan, offer prayers toward the sea in a moment of silence Sunday at 2:46 p.m., the time a powerful earthquake and tsunami struck off Japan's northeastern coast in 2011.

## Japan marks 7th anniversary of 2011 tsunami that killed 18,000

Associated Press

**TOKYO** — They bowed their heads, hands clasped or palms firmly pressed together. They stood in grassy areas or roadsides overlooking the choppy sea. In Japan's capital, they lit candles and offered flowers. Some dabbed at tears.

Japan marked the seventh anniversary Sunday of a tsunami that took more than 18,000 lives on the northeast coast and triggered a nuclear disaster that turned nearby communities into ghost towns.

Residents along the coast gathered outdoors to remember the tragedy as sirens wailed at 2:46 p.m., the moment the magnitude 9.0 offshore earthquake that set off the tsunami struck on March 11, 2011.

The tsunami overwhelmed sea walls and washed away buildings, cars and entire neighborhoods as it swept inland. It knocked out power at the seaside Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, causing partial meltdowns in three reactors.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at an official ceremony in Tokyo



SHIZUO KAMAYASHI/AP

**Japan's Prince Akishino and Princess Kiko bow in front of an altar for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami**

that reconstruction is making steady progress, but more than 70,000 people are still displaced and many have no prospect of returning to their homes.

Prince Akishino, the second son of Japanese Emperor Akihito, expressed hope that the tsunami would raise awareness and help prevent or mitigate damage from future natural disasters.

"It is my earnest hope ... that we hand down the knowledge

to future generations in order to protect many people from the dangers of disasters," he said.

Separately, several hundred people observed a moment of silence and made offerings at an altar set up in Hibiya Park in central Tokyo.

Cleaning up the still-radioactive Fukushima nuclear plant site remains a daunting challenge that is expected to take 30 to 40 years.

proved new party statutes that included abolishing Jean-Marie Le Pen's position as party president for life.

The party expelled him in 2015 over anti-Semitic remarks, but he kept the honorary position. Sunday's vote is a crushing blow for the elder Le Pen, who founded the party in 1972 and was runner-up in the 2002 French presidential election.



Marine Le Pen

## French far-right party severs Le Pen ties

Associated Press

**PARIS** — France's far-right National Front party has definitively severed its ties to firebrand founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, 89, as it tries to revive its fortunes.

The party also re-elected his daughter, Marine Le Pen, to a new term as president of the party congress. She was its only candidate for the post. A new 100-member governing council also was named.

The party tweeted Sunday that more than 79 percent of members who participated in a vote ap-

# Report: Traces of nerve agent found in ex-spy poisoning

By GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

**LONDON** — British media reported Sunday that traces of the nerve agent used to attack a Russian ex-spy and his daughter have been found in Salisbury where the two were poisoned.

BBC said its sources say traces were found at a restaurant where Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, reportedly ate before falling critically ill, and at a pub.

BBC also reported that up to 500 people who dined at the restaurant or frequented the pub have been told to wash their possessions as a precaution.

Sky News said traces were found in several locations.

U.K. officials haven't publicly confirmed that any trace of the nerve agent has been found and say the risk to the public remains low. Officials haven't said what type of nerve agent was used.

A large-scale police investigation is underway in Salisbury as forensics experts wearing protective gear search for clues.

Among the sites they are searching are the Zizzi restaurant, which is closed to the public, and the gravesites where Skripal's wife and son are buried. Skripal's house has also been extensively searched for clues and traces of the nerve agent.

Wiltshire police planned to hold a news conference Sunday afternoon to release further details about the widening investigation.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said Saturday evening that it is still "too early" to determine who is to blame for the attack. Senior

government officials have vowed to respond robustly if the Russian government is found to be responsible.

Rudd said more than 250 counterterrorism officers are on the scene evaluating more than 240 pieces of evidence and interviewing about 200 witnesses.

**Sources say traces were found at a restaurant where Sergei Skripal and his daughter reportedly ate before falling ill and at a pub.**

They are backed by roughly 180 military personnel providing logistical support, including the removal of ambulances feared to possibly be contaminated by the nerve agent.

Police are looking for clues to what sickened Skripal, 66, a Russian ex-military intelligence specialist who in 2006 was convicted in Russia of spying for Britain, and his daughter, Yulia, 33.

Skripal was imprisoned inside Russia until he was freed in a 2010 spy swap and settled in England. He had stayed out of the public eye since then.

The father and daughter were found unconscious March 4 on a bench in Salisbury. Skripal lived in the town, which is about 90 miles southwest of London.

## Man killed by tiger in Indonesia

Associated Press

**PEKANBARU, Indonesia** — A rare Sumatran tiger fatally attacked a man in the latest human-tiger conflict in a western Indonesian region plagued by widespread deforestation, officials said Sunday.

The victim, Yusri Effendi, 34, a construction worker, was mauled Saturday evening in the Indragiri Hilir district of the Sumatran province of Riau.

Local police chief Muhammad Rafi said the victim and three fellow workers were working when they spotted the tiger under a building. They decided to wait for about two hours until the tiger left.

They later walked about 250 yards and came face-to-face with the tiger. Rafi said they ran for safety, but the tiger attacked Effendi.

A search by fellow workers and villagers found Effendi unconscious in shrubs on the edge of a river. He died later due to bleeding from a wound on his nape, Rafi said.

Rafi said the location was about 12 miles from a palm oil plantation where a female worker was mauled to death in January.

Indonesia is home to some 400 Sumatran tigers, but they are increasingly under threat as their jungle habitat shrinks.

Many of the endangered animals roam into villages or plantations in search of food, setting off conflicts with humans.

Sumatran tigers are the most critically endangered tiger subspecies. About 400 remain, down from 1,000 in the 1970s, because of forest destruction and poaching.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Aggressive otter attacks kayakers

**FL** BRADENTON — A Florida kayaker is recovering after being attacked by an aggressive otter.

She Spector, 77, was kayaking with her husband down Braden River when the animal leaped onto the kayak and lunged at her earlier this month.

The Tampa Bay Times reported the kayak flipped as Spector, her husband and witnesses tried to help. She tried to fight the otter off with her paddle but he persisted. The couple climbed onto their guide's kayak. The otter followed but didn't attack again.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said four kayakers were injured in separate attacks recently on the same river.

## Thousands of golf balls recovered from lake

**OH** SHAKER HEIGHTS — Thousands of golf balls have been discovered during a dredging project at the bottom of a lake at a northeast Ohio nature center.

WJW-TV reported the golf balls were discovered recently in Shaker Heights' Green Lake by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District while dredging the bottom to restore the lake's depth. Most of the balls appear to have come from nearby Shaker Heights Country Club, which is upstream from the lake.

## Groomer uses CPR to save dog's life

**IL** NORMAL — The Bloomington Pantagraph reported that a 15-year-old corgi named Pia is still fighting to stay alive thanks to the quick thinking of a woman who not only knows CPR but knows what's good for man is good for man's best friend.

Pia's owner dropped Pia off recently at the Belly Rubs Dog Grooming in Normal. A while later, the dog suffered a seizure, causing it to stop breathing and its heart to stop.

Groomer Emily Bauman stepped up and blew air into the dog's nostrils before administering compressions until the dog started breathing again. Pia was taken to a local pet hospital, and its owner says it is now doing well.

## Nun involved in lawsuit with Katy Perry dies

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A nun involved in a lawsuit with pop star Katy Perry over the sale of a convent in Los Angeles died after collapsing during a court appearance.

Archbishop Jose Gomez said Sister Catherine Rose Holzman died Friday. She was 89.

Hours before her death, Holzman talked to KTTV, speaking out against a judge's ruling that cleared the way for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to sell a convent in the Los Feliz neighborhood to Perry.

The buyer sought to buy the 8-acre property and its Roman-villa

## THE CENSUS

60

The total weight in pounds of nails that have been removed from a popular off-road recreation area in eastern Idaho. U.S. Bureau of Land Management Recreation Planner Ben Cina told KIDK-TV on Friday that the thousands of nails came from pallet burning and other illegal activities at the St. Anthony Sand Dunes. The 10,600-acre area draws off-road vehicle enthusiasts attracted by dunes up to 400 feet high.



LAKE FONG, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

## Worms of wonder

Quintin McGeary, 8, of New Kensington, Pa., is fascinated to see worms in a fossil stone shown by Jason Sanford, a geologist from Chevron, during SciTech Days at Carnegie Science Center on Friday in the North Shore neighborhood of Pittsburgh. His grandfather, Ken, who accompanied him to the Science Center, said Quintin always collects stones while walking home from school.

style buildings for \$14.5 million. The nuts tried to sell the convent to a local restaurateur to turn it into a boutique hotel, but a judge ruled in 2016 the sale was invalid.

## High school holds poll to choose new mascot

**MA** MONTAGUE — A western Massachusetts high school is asking members of the community to help pick a new sports mascot after dropping its Native American-themed nickname.

The task force charged with finding a new mascot for Turners Falls High School published a poll on its Facebook page so residents, alumni and students can choose from among 16 semifinalists.

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee, over the objection of many residents and alumni, last year decided to drop Indians.

Among the semifinalists are Blue Herons, Coyotes, Powertown, Snappers, and Thunderbirds.

## Cat is credited with saving owners from fire

**PA** MCKEESPORT — Fire officials in Pennsylvania

nia are crediting a cat with saving the lives of its owners, who were sound asleep when a fire broke out in their home.

The blaze apparently started in the attic of the home in McKeesport, about 12 miles south of Pittsburgh, about 1 a.m. Friday.

Deputy fire chief Tom Perciavalle told WTAE-TV there were no smoke alarms in the house, but the cat made sure to wake up the couple.

The Red Cross helped the family find a place to stay, as the interior of the home was destroyed.

## 2 arrested in casino spray-and-run heist

**NV** ELKO — Police in Elko said two men have been arrested and an investigation is continuing after a storefront gambling parlor robbery in which patrons and employees were disabled with a noxious substance like pepper spray.

The Elko Daily Free Press reported that Tony Pressler, 36, of Spring Creek, was arrested early Thursday at Stockmen's Casino in Elko on robbery, burglary, theft and conspiracy.

Police said James Squires, 33,

of Elko, was arrested Wednesday on a probation violation and similar criminal charges in the robbery.

The men also face arson charges stemming from a car fire in a residential area shortly after the early March 2 robbery at Dotty's Casino off Mountain City Highway.

## Ex-officer charged in beating over jaywalking

**NC** ASHEVILLE — A former white police officer whose body-camera video recorded him as he beat a black pedestrian he accused of jaywalking has been arrested on assault charges in North Carolina.

The Buncombe County District Attorney's Office announced that Christopher Hickman was arrested late Thursday. He was charged with assault by strangulation, assault inflicting serious injury and communicating threats.

The Asheville police chief put Hickman on desk duty immediately following the beating in August, and he resigned from the force after an internal investigation determined that he should be fired. Still, the case remained a secret until the record-

ing was leaked to a newspaper and published, sparking community outrage. The FBI is now investigating.

## Kangaroo receiving arthritis treatment

**NY** NEW YORK — An aging kangaroo who calls the Bronx Zoo home is receiving cryotherapy treatment for arthritis.

The treatment is a high-tech alternative to ice baths that humans have used for years.

Zoo director Jim Breheny told the Daily News that the nearly 15-year-old marsupial named Dave is getting old and his staff joints are aching.

Breheny said the treatment might sound exotic but that it's really just one course of healing that the 200 medical experts at the zoo in New York City utilize to treat some 7,000 different species.

Dave's saga with localized cryotherapy treatment will be documented by Animal Planet's latest season of "The Zoo."

From wire reports



## FACES



# Undeniably harmonious

## Folk group I'm With Her didn't intend to start a band

BY RUDI GREENBERG  
The Washington Post

**F**olk group I'm With Her became a band in a backward sort of way. Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan and Sara Watkins first came together in 2014 for an off-the-cuff performance at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Colorado.

"It was the first time the three of us had sat down together to even mildly work up anything and it was a little happy awareness, 'Oh, this is cool; this is special; this sounds great,'" Watkins says of their set, which mostly featured covers. "Throughout that day we found ourselves singing together a few more times and after that day we texted each other — it kinda felt like a first date sorta thing, where you check back in: 'That was fun, right? We should do that again.'"

The next logical step would be to start writing songs, right? Instead, the three, who all knew one another casually before that first performance, went on a European tour in early 2015 and played a bunch of festivals doing covers of songs from Nina Simone, Jim Croce and

more. (The trio's name, by the way, pre-dates Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.)

It wasn't until that summer that they began writing original songs. And it would take until last month for them to release their debut album, "See You Around."

"What has been really great to learn is not only do we enjoy singing together, but we enjoy working together and arranging together," Watkins says. "And then to realize after doing a bunch of touring that we like to write together — that was the ring-on-the-finger kinda moment."

The songs for the album, mostly written during a weeklong stint in a Vermont farmhouse, came quickly, Watkins says, because of all the time they had spent arranging covers together.

"We found a rhythm and found a way to work quickly and densely," she says. "We're putting it together all at once, so at the end of writing a song, it feels pretty intact."

"See You Around" is a hypnotic, soothing blend of three voices and multiple instruments, pulling from the women's various jazz, bluegrass and folk back-

grounds. (Producer Ethan Johns is the only other musician on the record.) All three play guitar, with Jarosz adding mandolin, O'Donovan laying down keyboard work and Watkins playing fiddle. At times, their voices seem to blur into one.

"We all have really different voices, but even we sometimes, when we're been listening back to voice memo arrangements, we thought, 'Wait, are you singing that part or am I?'" Watkins says. "A lot of times the harmony parts sort of switch and weave around so the person who is singing the high harmony part might be taking lead or lower parts later on in the song, so we can lose track of what's happening."

Maybe that's the secret to their success. Despite all three having healthy solo careers or bands (O'Donovan's Crooked Still and Watkins' Nickel Creek), I'm With Her has its own distinct sound. "We're not coming from identical backgrounds, so it keeps it really interesting for all of us," Watkins says. "We all have our own special way of seeing things."

**Above: Sarah Jarosz (left), Aoife O'Donovan and Sara Watkins perform together as I'm With Her. "What has been really great to learn is not only do we enjoy singing together, but we enjoy working together and arranging together," Watkins says. "And then to realize after doing a bunch of touring that we like to write together — that was the ring-on-the-finger kinda moment."**

LYNDSEY BURNES/For The Washington Post

## Wiig will be villain in 'Wonder Woman' sequel

From wire services

Patty Jenkins has confirmed what the internet has been whispering for about a week: Kristen Wiig has signed on to play classic DC Comics villain The Cheetah in "Wonder Woman's" soon-to-be-in-production 2019 sequel.

The director verified the news on social media, tweeting that she's excited for the casting and can't wait to work with Wiig on her transformation into one of Wonder Woman's greatest adversaries.

Star Gal Gadot welcomed Wiig to the cast in a follow-up post and added, "This is going to be WONDERful."

Other rumors are swirling around the highly-anticipated Warner Bros./DC Entertainment sequel, including a potential setting in the '80s during the Cold War and Chris Pine's possible return as Steve Trevor (perhaps in a flashback). But Wiig's casting is the first major confirmation of the "Wonder Woman" sequel, which is expected to be released in late 2019.



Wiig

## 'Sopranos' prequel film in the works with David Chase script

"The Sopranos" might be coming to the movie theater.

Warner Bros. Pictures says March 8 that New Line has purchased a screenplay for a "Sopranos" prequel from series creator David Chase and Lawrence Konner. The studio says the working title is "The Many Saints of Newark," and it will be set in the 1960s during the Newark riots.

Chase's acclaimed series about mobster Tony Soprano, played by the late James Gandolfini, ran for six seasons on HBO and won 21 prime-time Emmys.

Chase will executive produce and co-write the film.

## Lisa Bonet says Bill Cosby gave off a 'sinister' energy

Lisa Bonet has broken her silence about her former TV father Bill Cosby, saying she isn't surprised he's facing sexual misconduct allegations and claiming he gave off a "sinister" energy.

Bonet says in an interview with Net-a-Porter's Porter magazine that she wasn't aware of any inappropriate behavior by Cosby on "The Cosby Show" and "A Different World," though she sensed "darkness."

"There was just energy. And that type of sinister, shadow energy cannot be concealed," she says.

Cosby faces a retrial on charges he drugged and molested a woman in 2004. Prosecutors describe him as a serial predator.

Bonet and Cosby clashed over her starring in the R-rated "Angel Heart." Asked about Cosby's current situation, she says she "just leave[s] all that to karma and justice."

## Favreau to write, produce new Star Wars series for streaming platform

BY JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

That galaxy far, far away keeps expanding. In the latest in a flurry of Star Wars spinoffs, the Walt Disney Co. announced March 8 that Jon Favreau will write and executive produce a live-action Star Wars series for the company's planned streaming platform.

Disney is readying a streaming

service to compete with Netflix, and it has signaled that Star Wars will be a major component. The not-yet-named service is planned to launch in late 2019.

"Jon brings the perfect mix of producing and writing talent, combined with a fluency in the Star Wars universe," said Kathleen Kennedy, Lucasfilm president. "This series will allow Jon the chance to work with a diverse group of writers and directors

and give Lucasfilm the opportunity to build a robust talent base."

Favreau has been a Disney regular, having directed the first two "Iron Man" films for Marvel and 2016's "The Jungle Book." He also helped produce several "Avengers" movies. He's currently prepping a "Lion King" remake to be released in 2019.

He has some Star Wars experience, too, having provided a voice for "The Clone Wars" animated series. Fa-

vreau also has a role in the upcoming Han Solo spinoff "Solo: A Star Wars Story."

Disney has previously announced that "The Last Jedi" writer-director Rian Johnson is developing a new Star Wars film trilogy, and that "Game of Thrones" creators D.B. Weiss and David Benioff will write and produce a separate series of Star Wars films.

No details or release date are announced for Favreau's series.



Favreau

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Alaska Airlines takes top spot for second year

By ANDREA SACHS  
The Washington Post

Flying is an emotional experience. Travelers can bond — and break up — with an airline before the first beverage cart rolls down the aisle. Which is why the Points Guy relied on unfeeling numbers, not capricious hearts, to calculate the Best and Worst U.S. Airlines in 2018.

“We used data,” not passengers’ opinions, said Brian Kelly, the founder and chief executive officer of the Points Guy, a travel news and consumer-advice site. “But I was shocked that JetBlue scored so low.”

See, you cannot strip all the sentiment from an air travel study.

In the website’s second annual survey, JetBlue took the penultimate spot — eight places behind the champion, Alaska Airlines, and one above last place finisher Hawaiian Airlines. Yes, Kelly is bewildered by Hawaiian’s low placement, too.

“The last is not the worst,” Kelly said as a consolation.

Hawaiian Airlines is not awful,

### US airlines rankings in 2018

1. Alaska
2. Southwest
3. Delta
4. United
5. Frontier
6. American Airlines
7. Spirit
8. JetBlue
9. Hawaiian

Source: Thepointsguy.com

he explained, but its higher fares and limited route network dragged down the airline like a coconut attached to the tail of a parrotfish. JetBlue, which earned high marks for cabin comfort and in-flight entertainment, dropped four places because of flight delays and low customer satisfaction, among other factors.

“It didn’t excel in any one category,” he said.

The study is based on 2017 facts and figures supplied by the On-Time Airline & Airport Rankings,

the Transportation Department’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics and Routehappy. The Points Guy, a founder of mileage plans, handled the airlines’ frequent-flyer programs. The team filed the findings under four categories: price (specifically, airfare and baggage and change fees), convenience (route network, on-time arrivals and cabin comfort), headaches (customer satisfaction, lost luggage and involuntary bumps) and extras (frequent flyer programs and lounges). Price carried the most weight, with 25 percent of the total tally; route network accounted for 15 percent. The remaining components ranged from 2 to 10 percent.

“We were thinking about consumers,” he said of the categories. “The flyers come first.”

Kelly was not surprised Alaska held onto its crown for another year. “The airline continues to be a favorite of its customers, and ranked in the top 3 across half of our criteria — airfare, on-time arrivals, baggage handling, customer satisfaction and its best-in-the-industry frequent flyer

program,” the report stated. He was, however, stunned by some of the other results. For one, United.

After a year of ghastly customer service, including the video-seen-around-the-belt of security forces dragging a Louisville, Ky., doctor off an overbooked flight, the legacy carrier fell only two spots, to fourth. Kelly said the airline redeemed itself by reducing involuntary bumps and lowering the number of passenger complaints by 17 percent.

Another shocker: Spirit’s rise to seventh place from rock bottom. (Last year, the site featured 10 airlines; for 2018, it listed nine, due to Alaska’s purchase of Virgin America.) He said the budget carrier scored well on lost baggage, on-time arrivals and, of course, ridiculously low fares.

“They deliver cheap tickets to people who want cheap tickets,” he said.

However, penny-pinching Spirit could not touch bounteous Southwest, which occupied second place. The carrier scored big with its modest ticket prices, expanding route map and generous policies, including two free checked bags

and no change fees.

For next year’s survey, Kelly said they might tweak some of the percentage weights and show how close the airlines ranked, so travelers better understand the tight race. This year, for example, Alaska was less than one point ahead of Southwest, and Delta and United were separated by only a few tenths of a point.

“Maybe we won’t call it the best and the worst,” he said. “We will call it a ranking and see how the airlines can improve.”

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 12)	\$1,2629
Dollar buys (March 12)	€9,7918
British pound (March 12)	\$1.42
Japanese yen (March 12)	103.00
South Korean won (March 12)	1,044.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.3861
Canada (dollar)	1.2851
China (Yuan)	6.3373
Denmark (Krone)	6.5903
Egypt (Pound)	17.6165
Euro	\$1,2132/0.8122
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8373
Hungary (Forint)	253.16
Israel (Shekel)	1.4442
Japan (Yen)	106.87
Kuwait (Dinar)	8.3963
Norway (Krone)	7.7985
Philippines (Peso)	52.03
Poland (Zloty)	3.41
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3149
South Korea (Won)	1,066.04
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9505
Thailand (Baht)	31.32
Turkey (Lira)	3.8105
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pounds, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount	2.00
Federal funds market rate	4.25
3-month bill	1.63
30-year bond	3.16

## Court: TransCanada doesn’t have to pay landowner attorneys

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — The developer of the Keystone XL pipeline doesn’t have to reimburse attorneys who defended Nebraska landowners against the company’s efforts to gain access to their land, the state Supreme Court ruled Friday.

The high court’s ruling resolves a dispute that was triggered when TransCanada Inc. filed eminent domain lawsuits against 71 Ne-

braska landowners in 2015, only to drop them later amid uncertainty over whether the process it used was constitutional.

“We conclude that none of the landowners established that they were entitled to attorney fees,” Chief Justice Michael Heavican wrote in the opinion.

Omaha attorney Dave Domina argued that TransCanada owes his clients about \$350,000 to cover their attorney fees. Domina said

the landowners clearly asked for representation in the eminent domain cases, and TransCanada should pay their attorney fees because the company effectively lost those cases.

A TransCanada attorney, James Powers, argued that the landowners failed to prove that they actually paid or were legally indebted to Domina or his law partner, Brian Jorde.

“We’re pleased the Nebraska Su-

preme Court agreed with our legal position,” Powers said Friday.

Domina said he respected the decision but was disappointed for his clients.

The proposed \$8 billion, Canada-to-Texas pipeline has faced intense opposition from environmental groups, some property owners along the route and Native American tribes, who consider it a threat to their groundwater and property rights.

### WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# Stripes

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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## OPINION

## Defending 'sanctuary cities' will cost Dems

By Ed Rogers

Special to The Washington Post

A attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Trump administration are going about the sanctuary city issue in the right way. The very idea of so-called sanctuary cities is offensive to a lot of law-abiding Americans. Taking action against the liberal politicians who want to give safe harbor to illegal immigrants is a slow, easy pitch from the Democrats, and Republicans everywhere should take advantage.

The Justice Department is now challenging several laws in California that not only interfere with the nation's immigration policies but also place American citizens and law enforcement personnel at risk. The idea that laws can be ignored and that state and local politicians can affirmatively warn lawbreakers of how to escape apprehension is incredible. It is indefensible. We either have laws, or we don't. And if our elected leaders don't want to uphold the law, they can either change them or resign. The law is not optional once you have made a pledge to uphold the duties of your office.

Open-border radicals in California and other liberal strongholds must be held accountable. Of course, liberals would have you believe that they are only interested in protecting the poor, the oppressed and the hardworking who have nowhere else to go. But in many cases, their actions allow dangerous and sometimes repeat criminals to be shielded from deportation or prison. In California, good Samaritans who value the rule of law are even prohibited from voluntarily cooperating with federal immigration officials who are trying to uphold the law and make our country safer.

Anyway, Democrats and their allies in the media will say otherwise, but nothing about this conversation is even in the slightest bit hyperbolic. Local politicians are actually warning illegal immigrants of impending enforcement actions. In Oak-



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

**U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions addresses the California Peace Officers' Association on Wednesday in Sacramento.**

land, Mayor Libby Schaaf went so far as to issue a press release and accompanying tweet alerting illegal immigrants in the Bay Area of an impending Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation last month. According to ICE Deputy Director Thomas D. Homan, what the Oakland mayor did "is no better than a gang look-out yelling 'police' when a police cruiser comes in the neighborhood."

The fact that a politician who presumably swore to uphold the Constitution could feel so emboldened to undermine an active law enforcement operation and place those officers in harm's way cannot go unanswered. And according to what Sessions said on Wednesday, it won't. Specifically, speaking before the California Peace Officers' Association, Sessions said: "We are going to fight these irrational, unfair and unconstitutional policies that have been imposed on you and our federal officers. We are fighting to make your jobs safer and to help you reduce crime in America. We are fighting to have a lawful system of immigration that serves Americans. And we intend to win." Well said.

Republicans can only hope that liberals running in 2018 will make an issue of the Justice Department lawsuit. After all, do Democrats really want to be on the side of shielding illegal immigrants — many of whom have outstanding warrants and criminal records? When the Oakland mayor alerted an entire community of illegal immigrants, criminals that ICE was coming, she reportedly allowed about 800 to escape. According to ICE officials, almost half of those who were arrested "had prior felony convictions for serious or violent offenses, such as child sex crimes, weapons charges and assault, or had past convictions for significant or multiple misdemeanors."

Are those really the people Democrats want to defend? I hope so. I can already see the campaign ads that Republicans will be running. The Democrats' position on sanctuary cities will not play well in flyover America.

Last month, plenty of Democrats and liberal outlets pushed the idea that somehow, in some bizarre twist of reality, Republicans had split with law enforcement and were no longer the party of law and order. The Huffington Post even pronounced that Republicans had "unleashed an extraordinary attack on law enforcement" by criticizing a few senior FBI officials. With the Democrats' position on sanctuary cities, that argument should not be too difficult to dismiss.

Anyone who supports illegal aliens and opposes law enforcement's efforts to protect communities from criminals should be shown no quarter — not in the media, not in the courtroom and not in our political campaigns. In the case of the administration's policy on sanctuary cities, good policy is also the best politics.

Ed Rogers is a contributor to the PostPartisan blog, a political consultant and a veteran of the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush White Houses and several national campaigns. He is the chairman of the lobbying and communications firm BGR Group.

## ADA still the right path — and good for business

By Bruce Freeman

Tribune News Service

I am a successful entrepreneur, a teacher, a father, husband and active community member. I purchase goods and services like everyone else. While I do not let multiple sclerosis define me, I do need a wheelchair and conversion van to get around.

A couple of weeks ago our House of Representatives passed HR 620, the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017. It sounds good: Educate people about the ADA and reform legislation that is more than 25 years old. But this bill significantly weakens the Americans with Disabilities Act and is a setback for civil rights.

There's not much education in this bill to speak of and it would make it much more difficult for people like me to challenge an inaccessible business. If this passes into law, business owners would no longer need to strive to make their premises accessible. They could just strive for "substantial progress." A grocery store, restaurant, garage or any place of business could "strive" for decades and still be unavailable to someone with limited mobility or who is in a wheelchair.

Hundreds of groups representing people with disabilities are fighting this change and I support them. Some lawyers aren't happy, some owners of inaccessible businesses are breathing a sigh of relief, and much of the general public may not care one way or the other.

All of this got me thinking.

First I have to say that my own experiences with local businesses and places where I have worked, by and large, really positive. Owners of businesses I frequent and places I work see me, Bruce, not the guy in the wheelchair. They want me to be able to get into work without a hassle and want me to keep shopping and eating in their establishments.

As a business professor, business owner, baby boomer, friend and parent, I understand that this is good business, too. According to a census report, there are 56.7 million people with disabilities in this country, representing 19 percent of the U.S. population. We shop, eat out and use services the same as everyone else. We ramp, wider doors and wheelchair-accessible bathrooms, we are able to shop and eat locally. This point is often made by individuals and groups who advocate for people with disabilities.

But I want to make the point that accessibility is good for business in a much broader sense. People with disabilities have friends and families who choose businesses based on their accessibility. Last year a friend had a party with about 40 people invited, and his wife spent hours on the phone finding a venue that I could get into and that had a wheelchair accessible bathroom. So, in the end, an accessible restaurant got a big party and lots of follow-on business. This happens every day on a smaller scale as people with disabilities shop or eat out with our families and our lunch groups, and work with business associates.

New parents also learn something about business accessibility. The first time they see a flight of stairs they can't pull the cart, they find it hard to maneuver their stroller or aisles with no room for a stroller, they start thinking about alternative shops and restaurants.

And, although we have recently been nudged out by millennials, the baby boom generation still is a force with which to be reckoned. Let's face it, our children and ours are getting older and are in varying stages of great health and mobility. We want to be active and we have money to spend. Many of us and our friends look for restaurants, stores and services that comfortably accommodate our mobility issues, knee operations, arthritis, fear of falling and need for "comfort" height toilets. This is a phenomenon and business necessity that will increase exponentially as we age.

And as a final thought, I want to say thank you to the business owners and employers who have made it easy for me, my family and friends to patronize your stores, restaurants and services. I also want to ask your readers to look around the next time you access a local business or service. If it is a place that people with limited mobility can access and where they can be comfortable, thank the owner and recommend it to your friends. If not, ask the owner to consider making changes. Tell him or her those changes will be good for business.

Bruce Freeman is entrepreneur, author and college professor. He is public affairs coordinator for Livingston Advisory Committee for Disabilities in Livingston, N.J.

## OPINION

## List of female political leaders is too short

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

I wanted to list female political leaders to watch in 2018, in honor of International Women's Day, but the list is sadly disappointing.

Currently, there are only 20 women holding the office of head of state or head of government — which equals 6.3 percent of the 315 international leaders. And two of the heads of state — Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Denmark's Margrethe II — are hereditary queens.

No wonder the World Economic Forum's 2017 Gender Gap report predicts that it will take 99 years to, maybe, reach political parity between male and female leaders. (Will it take that long, I wonder, after the Hillary Clinton debate for the United States to elect a woman as president?)

Nor have women leaders fared particularly well in recent years. Several female prime ministers lost elections during the last decade. Brazil's Dilma Rousseff was impeached for budget malfeasance, South Korea's President Park Geun-Hye was impeached for corruption in 2016 and is awaiting trial, and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was defeated in 2015 and found guilty of abusing power by the country's constitutional court. Given the political history of those countries, it's not that surprising that the United States have been treated better if they were male.

In one happy contrast, Liberian Presi-

dent Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the world's first elected black female president and Africa's first elected female head of state (in 2006), survived some dips to step down with dignity in 2018.

Of those female leaders now in power, Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been state counsellor (equivalent to prime minister) since 2016, has been the biggest disappointment. A heroic fighter for democracy and human rights, she suffered 15 years of house arrest and won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. But she has refused to criticize Myanmar's military for its massive ethnic cleansing and brutalization of 500,000 members of the ethnic Muslim Rohingya minority, who have fled to Bangladesh.

So who, among the remaining 18 non-queens female leaders, should you watch in 2018?

First and foremost is the indomitable Angela Merkel, German chancellor since 2005. In her first term, her power has dipped and her party's parliamentary bloc shrunk, but she just concluded a difficult coalition accord with the Social Democrats. This will provide some vital stability in a Europe shaken by a populist surge in Italy and Central Europe. Merkel is still an anchor for Europe, which the continent badly needs.

Which brings us to the second European leader to watch: Theresa May, the weakened prime minister of the United



FRANK AUGUSTIN/AP

**Can Prime Minister Theresa May negotiate a divorce from the European Union without crashing the U.K.'s economy?**

Kingdom. The U.K.'s drawn-out Brexit is further destabilizing Europe. This year will reveal whether May can negotiate a divorce from the European Union without crashing her island's economy and sparking new strife in Northern Ireland.

Then I would watch the two female Baltic presidents, Kersti Kaljulaid, of Estonia, and the re-elected Dalia Grybauskaitė, of Lithuania. It takes particular skill to manage Baltic affairs with Vladimir Putin's Russia breathing down their necks and seeking to manipulate their politics, but the Baltic leaders have been managing astoundingly well.

Speaking of Russia, I would watch Russian presidential candidate Kсения Sobchak, a 36-year-old former TV star who has had the gall to challenge Putin in the

March 18 presidential election. She will probably draw only a tiny percentage of the vote but has at least managed to insert some real issues into state-controlled TV coverage. (She is tolerated as a candidate, unlike the banned and far more potent opposition leader Alexei Navalny, because he had was a friend of Putin's and her unthreatening presence gives Putin cover to claim the election is free.)

I would also recommend watching Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who is not recognized as a sovereign leader by China or the United Nations. She has had to govern with a strong and steady hand to balance Beijing's constant pressure and President Donald Trump's Taiwan gaffes.

And finally, it's worth paying attention to the talented Michelle Bachelet, the first Chilean president since 1932 to win twice in the presidential elections, as well as New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern, who at 37 is the youngest prime minister in the world.

With such a tiny sample of women leaders, it's hard to tell whether their performance is truly affected by gender or whether it reflects their countries' cultures and histories in the same way it does for their male counterparts.

But we will never know until the sample is vastly expanded. And, if the Gender Gap report is correct, that won't happen in my lifetime or yours.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

## VA health data to transfer easier than DOD's to new system

By TOM PHILLIOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, returned from a recent visit to Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., alarmed that the Department of Veterans Affairs might have made a bad decision last June to replace its legacy electronic health record system, VistA, with the same commercial off-the-shelf system that the military is adopting, starting with Pacific Northwest bases.

"I came back blowing the bugle," said Roe, a physician, who saw staff at Fairchild's hospital frustrated at the MHS Genesis system in ways that recalled for Roe his experience years earlier shifting paper to electronic medical records.

In this case, however, Fairchild physicians were frustrated that only minimal patient data had transferred from the Defense Department's legacy system, AHLTA, into the Cerner Millennium architecture used in MHS Genesis.

If the VA adopted the same system, Roe remembered fearing, physicians would have to spend hours looking at additional minutes on each patient just looking into VistA data that Roe had expected would be transferred into the new record system.

"If I don't have it all in front of me," Roe said, "you've just added another hour to my day. You ask doctors to do this, with this frustration, then it's the damn electronic health system. It takes part of the joy out of medicine."

Roe said he feared that a lot of the efficiency savings the VA expected to realize from modernizing electronic records would be lost by having to maintain this legacy system alongside the new system, perhaps for decades.

That's why Roe sounded retreat, he said. He's put away his honor, however.

VA Secretary David Shulkin, back in December, paused contract negotiations and plans to piggyback onto the deployment of MHS Genesis for reasons unrelated to

## MILITARY UPDATE

physician frustrations Roe witnessed. In fact, Roe said, Shulkin soon reassured him that VA medical data won't face the same transfer challenges as military patient data stored on AHLTA. Shulkin told him that contracting officials expect to be able to transfer up to five years of VA medical records into the new system for every patient enrolled in VA health care, Roe said.

"They should have everything pertinent in there," Roe said. "They will keep the rest of that information stored for legal purposes or, I guess, if they had to deep dive when somebody left information out or a disability claim that still needed to be data mined. But for the most part, if I'm a [VA] doc sitting in front of my screen, getting ready to see my patient, I'll have everything I need on one system."

Roe remains concerned that the Department of Defense will have to keep AHLTA accessible to medical staff for years longer than the VA will need to use VistA, even though the VA's patient base is at least twice as large.

What Roe discovered at Fairchild, however, has been well known for years among architects of government electronic health records. Since at least 2009, when the Obama administration announced plans for a virtual lifetime record system using worldwide standards, the VA has taken more care than did the DOD to collect and store medical data in a common format, compatible with popular electronic record systems in the private sector.

Defense officials knew they would face hurdles on data transfer when they signed the \$4.3 billion, 10-year Defense Healthcare Management System Modernization contract in July 2015, with Leidos Inc. tasked to deploy two popular commercial systems — Cerner Millennium for medical records and Centric Enterprise for dental — to modernize military health records.

"DOD does not concede this will be a problem for us," said Stacy Cummings, program executive officer for Defense Healthcare Management Systems. She acknowledged the VA and DOD are modernizing different legacy models. The DOD, in fact, has three legacy electronic medical record systems in AHLTA, Essentris and CHCS, each of which manages health data differently.

"As we transition to MHS Genesis," Cummings said, "we will sunset legacy tools locally — at each medical facility — and once we have fully transitioned we will sunset the legacy programs at the enterprise level."

Health care providers at military facilities, meanwhile, will continue to view legacy health data through the Joint Legacy Viewer, a clinical application created years ago to allow "read only" access to medical records stored by the DOD, VA and private-sector partners who participate in the common data viewer.

MHS Genesis' rollout began in February 2017 at Fairchild and at Oak Harbor Naval Hospital, Wash., in June. Madigan Army Medical Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and Naval Health Clinic Oak Harbor followed. Plans are to have the system fully deployed at these sites by 2019 and throughout the military by 2022.

Further expansion at these bases is in a planned pause for eight weeks while Milcoms review more than 1,000 patient complaints and make necessary adjustments to enhance the system, DOD and contract officials explained.

Shulkin paused VA contract negotiations with the Leidos-Cerner team in December so the not-for-profit MITRE Corp. could study the draft contract and identify issues. Roe said MITRE made many recommendations. One would direct the VA, not Cerner, to own the connection portal, or API gateway, between community providers and insurance companies. Another would require the VA to create an external panel to conduct annual interoperability assessments to judge how effective the new

system is in accessing and transferring medical data.

Patrick Flanders, chief information officer for the military health system, said the requirement to keep medical records available through AHLTA, at least through full deployment of Genesis, is tied to it being "an old system" with "poor" data.

Some of the frustration Roe heard from providers at Fairchild are "part of just the growing pains" of using a new system installed at targeted sites for the purpose of achieving initial operational capability, Flanders said.

Adrian Atizado, deputy national legislative director with Disabled American Veterans, has been studying VA plans to piggyback on the DOD plan for modernizing records, using the same contractors and architecture, applying DOD lessons learned and using the same staff that brings MHS Genesis to life.

Atizado questioned whether the piggyback arrangement can be sustained for too long if, in every region of the country, the VA can transition to the new health record system faster than the DOD because of ease of medical data transfer.

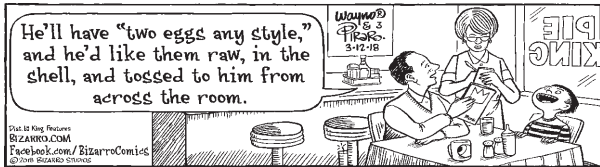
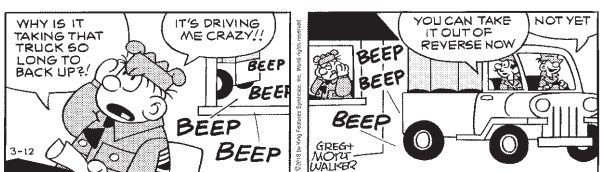
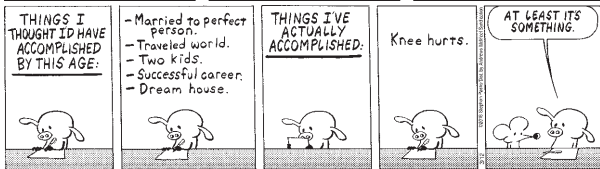
If the VA had followed the DOD's lead into Washington state, for example, would the VA have to delay its own progress modernizing records at VA facilities in state while the DOD paused for weeks to fix user complaints at military hospitals, Atizado asked. "And if VA doesn't rollout behind them, but in front, what will that do to VA costs?"

Shulkin was expected to announce resumption of contract negotiations soon.

Roe applauded the secretary's caution on a contract estimated at \$15 billion.

"You know this is the biggest electronic rollout that anybody's ever done. Biggest in the world," Roe said. "And VA doesn't have the greatest track record of rolling big stuff out on time and under budget. I can tell you that."

Sends comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milup@aoi.com; Twitter: @Military\_Update.



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
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54				55						56		
57				58						59		

## ACROSS

- 1 Towboat  
4 Plot surprise  
9 Super Bowl org.  
12 Son-gun link  
13 Oscar de la —  
14 Tram load  
15 Obvious choice  
17 Service charge  
18 New Deal pres.  
19 More sizable  
21 Sold  
24 Crèche figure  
25 Punk rock  
subgenre  
26 Squabble  
28 Swindle, old styl  
31 Opulent  
33 Erie Canal mule  
35 NYC gallery

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 56 Baton Rouge sch.   | 20 Senior moment?          |
| 57 PC key             | 21 Part of speech          |
| 58 Old anesthetic     | 22 Actor Jannings          |
| 59 Jo's sister        | 23 Press conference answer |
| <b>DOWN</b>           | 27 Existed                 |
| 1 Heavy weight        | 29 Flightless birds        |
| 2 ET's craft          | 30 Cager Archibald         |
| 3 Talk on and on      | 32 Locks                   |
| 4 Merchant            | 34 Military luo            |
| 5 Eccentrics          | 37 Stupor                  |
| 6 Hostel              | 39 Peril                   |
| 7 Fulton's power      | 42 Left, at sea            |
| 8 Runway surface      | 44 Young fellow            |
| 9 Restricted airspace | 45 Test version            |
| 10 Gratis             | 46 Russian river           |
| 11 Ogler's look       | 50 "Humbug!"               |
| 16 "Mayberry —"       | 51 Stately tree            |
|                       | 52 Enzyme suffix           |
|                       | 53 Schlep                  |

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	M	S		R	S	V	P		P	S	S	T
E	A	T		U	H	O	H		L	O	L	A
R	E	E		P	A	L	O		A	L	U	M
T	I	M	E	A	F	T	E	R	T	I	M	E
				T	U	T		N	E	O		
S	T	O	O	L		Y	I	P			H	I
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				F	I	N		V	O			
Y	E	A	R	A	F	T	E	R	Y		E	A
Y	E	R	I		O	U	R	S			G	N
W	A	N	E		I	T	B	E		A	T	M
S	S	T	S		L	U	S	T			D	I

## 3-12

## CRYPTOQUIP

NJ JMNJ YDDJBHP VE SNUJT

K D N G D U C ,   Y N H T   S D V S K D

ADUD UVAGT NHG EBPMJBHP.

AMNJ N UNWQVWC QNWQWC.  
**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** AFTER YOU'VE  
 COOKED PASTA, PLUNGE IT IN COLD WATER  
 FOR ONLY A FEW SECONDS. DON'T OVERSINK IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals R




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### Announcements 040

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- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### Automotive 140

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### Autos for Sale 142

Auto • Quality Priced  
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**French bulldog puppies**  
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**Shots on Goal**—New Jersey 10-8-7-2—27. Nashville 5-12-14-5—36.  
**Power-play opportunities**—New Jersey 0 of 3; Nashville 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—New Jersey, Kinkaid 17-9-2 (36 shots-34 saves). Nashville, Saros 7-5-6 (27-25).  
**A**—17:545 (17.113). **T**—2:51.



## HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

# Kinnick boys, girls teams enjoy a winning weekend

Just 10 months after Kinnick's girls staged the most dominant Far East spring sports season by a Division I school, the Red Devils boys appear to want to join that party.

Sophomore Kai Sullivan scored seven times, including three in a four-minute span of Saturday's match, as the boys soccer team swept two matches from Edgren, 5-0 and 6-0. Sullivan has a team-leading 12 goals and four assists and Kinnick is 7-0 this season.

"He probably could've had a few more, but he likes to distribute the ball and get other kids involved," coach Travis Stevens said. He also has a team-leading four assists. "It's nice to see him do that. He's a heckuva player."

The baseball team followed suit in its season opener against Perry. Kai Smith drove in four runs. Jonathan Acosta got the win with five innings of relief and Kinnick scored five times in the bottom of the sixth to end the Samurai 12-7.

Defending D-I champion girls teams also enjoyed a strong weekend.

Sophomore Mariam Wimberly pitched two complete-game victories, allowing seven hits in eight innings and striking out 12, as the Red Devils beat the Samurai 19-7 on Friday and 23-3 on Saturday.

Alanna Juarez and Cassie Boyer combined for nine RBIs on Friday for a team that has just one senior, two juniors and all the rest underclassmen. On the pitch, freshman Maggie Donnelly has proven in just seven matches to be an able replacement for departed center mid Kiralyn Kawachi. Donnelly has 12 goals, including three each on Friday and Saturday, as the Red Devils swamped the Eagles 7-1 and 11-0.

**Yokota:** Moving from the diamond to the soccer pitch seems to agree with Renyck Robertson. The junior scored his second goal of the season and Zach Namata assisted as the Panthers battled St. Maur to a 1-1 draw Friday. Yokota is 3-2-2.

**Zama:** Sophomore Kayesha McNeill took the Pacific goal-scoring lead with 17, scoring four times Friday. Megan Harris, Siobhan Grabski and Sora Thompson had two assists each to power the Trojans girls past St. Maur 8-0 to improve to 4-1 on the season.

**Perry:** Junior Kai Lange remains the Pacific boys goal-scoring leader with 23. He scored six times over the weekend and the Samurai boys soccer team went 1-2-1 in the Western Japan Athletic Association tournament at Osaka. Perry is 4-2-2 this season.

**E.J. King:** Sophomore Gabi Shultz ran her team-best goal-scoring total to six, scoring five times over the weekend as the Cobras won the Gold Bracket in the WJAA Tournament at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. King is 3-4 this season.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

**Kinnick's Ryuta Elmoutawakel fires the ball past Edgren defender Ethan Hovenkotter during Saturday's DODEA-Japan boys soccer match. The Red Devils blanked the Eagles 5-0.**

**Edgren:** The lone spotlight for the girls soccer team over the weekend was freshman Ariel Moncrief. She got her sixth goal of the season in the closing minutes of Edgren's 7-1 loss Friday to Kinnick.

**Humphreys:** The boys and girls soccer teams best starts in school history continued Friday. James Rivet scored two times, giving him four for the season, and boosting the Blackhawks boys (3-0) past Taejon Christian 2-0. Hayden McMillan found the back of the net four times, giving her seven, as Humphreys (2-0-1) routed the Dragons 5-1.

**Osan:** Jana Rafi scored twice, Lizzy White netted her team-leading fourth of the season and Maja Inthavay had a goal and an assist for the defending Korea Blue girls champion Cougars, who improved to 2-0 with a 4-0 blanking of Seoul American.

**Seoul American:** David Brown assumed the Falcons' boys goal-scoring lead, finding the back of the net twice, giving him four on the season. Seoul American improved to 2-1 with a 5-0 shutout of Osan.

**Daegu:** Short of players due to injuries and SATs, the Warriors girls soccer team did not make the trip to Seoul Foreign. No makeup date was announced. Daegu's boys did travel to Seoul, where they lost to the Crusaders 7-0.

**Kadena:** Right-hander Jared Duenas tossed a no-hitter Saturday as the Panthers won the opener of a double-header with Kubasaki. ... The Panthers topped the team standings in Saturday's season-opening track meet. Hayden Bills won the 1,600 and 3,200 and was part of the 3,200 relay winning team and Ryan Worcester swept the boys throws.

On the girls side, Alexis Epp won the throws and Lydia Bills the 800.

**Kubasaki:** Judge Morgan scored a hat trick, giving him five goals this season, as the Dragons improved to 3-0 with a 5-0 shutout of Okinawa Industrial. ... Elizabeth Joy, the reigning Okinawa cross country champion, swept the long-distance races during Saturday's track meet.

— Stars and Stripes



JOSHUA I. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

**Georgia coach Mark Fox leaves the court after the team's loss to Texas A&M on Feb. 28. Fox was fired following a disappointing regular season and the team's loss to Kentucky in the quarterfinals of the SEC tournament. Athletic director Greg McGarity announced the decision in a statement released by the school on Saturday.**

## Briefly

# Williams sisters to resume rivalry

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Serena Williams and sister Venus won at the BNP Paribas Open to set up a third-round clash in the desert tournament.

Serena got by No. 29 seed Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands 7-6 (5), 7-5 in the second round on Saturday in her return from a 14-month absence after giving birth to her first child. Venus preceded her younger sister on the stadium court and beat Sorana Cirstea of Romania 6-3, 6-4.

The sisters will resume their longtime rivalry on Monday. Serena leads Venus 17-11 all-time and has won eight of their last nine meetings, most recently the Australian Open final last year.

It will be their earliest meeting since the sisters' first match, a straight-sets victory by Venus in the second round of the 1998 Australian Open.

"Obviously, I wish it was anybody else in the draw, literally anybody, but that's OK," Serena said. "Just have to go out there and see how I am and do my best."

## Georgia fires Fox after disappointing season

ATLANTA — Georgia coach Mark Fox was fired after a disappointing regular season and a loss to Kentucky in the quarterfinals of the SEC Tournament.

Athletic director Greg McGarity announced the decision in a statement released by the school on Saturday. McGarity moved quickly on Fox, the ninth-year coach, only one day after the Bulldogs' exit from the Southeastern Conference Tournament.

The Bulldogs (18-15) likely needed to win the SEC Tournament to land an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

## Keselowski overcomes penalty, wins Xfinity race

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Brad Keselowski overcame an early pit-road speeding penalty Saturday to win the rain-delayed NASCAR Xfinity Series at ISM Raceway.

Keselowski took the lead off a pit stop with 32 laps left and held off Justin Allgaier in the race that was delayed two hours because of light rain at the mile oval south-west of Phoenix.

"The weather kind of came to us with what we needed for how our car was handling," Keselowski said. "It was a solid team effort. I wasn't perfect today by any stretch of the imagination, but the car was really strong."

Kyle Busch was third. He took the second stage, holding the lead on a one-lap shootout after the second delay.

## Nationals' Murphy takes first BP of the spring

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Washington Nationals second baseman Daniel Murphy didn't experience any issues during his first on-field batting practice of the spring on Saturday.

Working his way back from offseason knee surgery, Murphy had only progressed as far as hitting in the batting cages.

Murphy still doesn't have a timetable as to when he'll appear in a Grapefruit League game.

In other MLB news: ■ Kansas City Royals outfielder Jorge Bonifacio has been suspended 80 games after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

The commissioner's officed made the announcement Saturday. Bonifacio was banned after a positive test for Boldenone.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Marshall's 31-year NCAA drought comes to end

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — The long wait is over for Marshall after all those long shots by Jon Elmore.

Elmore scored 20 of his 27 points after halftime, with a Conference USA championship game-record seven three-pointers, and the Thundering Herd are going to their first NCAA Tournament since 1987 after a 67-66 win over Western Kentucky on Saturday night.

"We earned it. We fought all year long," said Elmore, with a cut-down net draped over his shoulder.

After coming so close last year, losing in the C-USA title game, Elmore kept hitting long threes in the second half for the Herd (24-10). He made six of his threes after the break, including 11 straight points in a span of just more than 2 minutes.

The Herd were in the Southern Conference when they went to their last NCAA Tournament 31 years ago.

"We talked about it before the season this year. We were thinking back about just how the season ended, just the feeling in the locker room," Elmore said. "Everybody's heads were down, people were crying, you could have heard a pin drop in there. ... We didn't want that again."

This time, tournament MVP Elmore described what he called an awesome scene with 70-year-old coach and Marshall alumnus Dan D'Antoni jumping around with his players.

The Herd had a 67-55 lead when Elmore made his last three with 3:40 left. Western Kentucky (24-10) then scored the game's last 11 points before missing two shots in the final three minutes, and Williams won the final rebound and managed to call timeout while falling to the court with 7.3 seconds left.

The Hilltoppers, with 10 wins against teams who have won at least 20 games, missed a chance to get back to first NCAA Tournament since 2013. Instead, they wait to see if they get on the next list.

Marshall became the 11th school to win the C-USA Championship title game in the league's 23 years.

**UMBC 65, Vermont 62:** Jaiirus Lyles was determined to come up with a different ending for UMBC.

Lyles improvised in the final moments and hit a long three-point shot with less than a second left, lifting visiting Maryland Baltimore County over top-seeded Vermont in the America East championship game.

"I waved off the last play from the bench, tried to get me some space and take the shot to end the game," Lyles said.

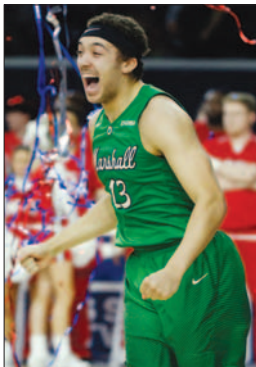
Second-seeded UMBC (24-10) had lost 23 straight times to the Catamounts in the last 10 years, including twice this season by a combined 45 points. But with Lyles scoring 27 points, the Retrievers rallied to earn their first NCAA Tournament trip since 2008.

Vermont (27-7) led 57-48, but didn't make a basket in the final 8:21.

"Vermont is the gold standard in the America East. They have the tradition that we want to create at UMBC," coach Ryan Odom said.

**New Mexico State 72, Grand Canyon 58:** Even with three different coaches in three years, New Mexico State keeps making NCAA Tournament appearances. In the offseason, Chris Jans took over an already successful Aggies program after Paul Weir left for instate rival New Mexico. One year earlier, Marvin Menzies left for UNLV.

Jans got things organized during the season and rolling late as his Aggies once again won the Western Athletic Conference Tournament championship with victory



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

Marshall guard Jarrod West celebrates their Conference USA Tournament championship against Western Kentucky in Frisco, Texas, on Saturday. Marshall earned its first NCAA bid in 31 years.

over apartheid Grand Canyon at Las Vegas.

Zach Lofton scored 21 points, AJ Harris had 20, and Jermier Jones added 15 points and 18 rebounds to help New Mexico State win its fifth straight WAC Tournament championship and an NCAA Tournament berth.

"I don't care what seed they give us," said Jans, whose program has lost its last nine NCAA Tournament games, dating back to 1993. "This time, we have an experience bunch. They need us where they need us. Our guys are going to fight and be a tough matchup for anyone."

**Buffalo 76, Toledo 66:** Handed a pair scissors, Buffalo coach Nate Oats began climbing a ladder to cut down another championship net.

As he rose above the floor, the fans below him chanted: "Five more years! Five more years!"

The Bulls are back on top, and they just might stay there for a while.

Wes Clark scored 26 points, Nick Perkins added 16, including a big three-pointer in the final three minutes, and Buffalo won its third Mid-American Conference championship — and the league's automatic NCAA bid — in four years.

"People want to go where you get to go to the NCAA Tournament," said Oats, who signed a five-year contract extension on Thursday. "Kids want to go to the NCAA. I want to coach them."

**San Diego State 82, New Mexico 75:** San Diego State's Trey Kell has been battling injuries throughout the season, missing parts of eight games through mid-February.

So, when a New Mexico player kneed him in his lower leg during the Mountain West Conference tournament championship, he wasn't surprised.

He also wasn't coming out of the game. Kell scored 11 of his game-high 28 points down the stretch to lead San Diego State to a come-from-behind victory over the Lobos in Las Vegas.

"I felt like I was rolling at the moment, I saw that we were down about six or something like that, so for me, coming out because of an injury wasn't an option," Kell said. "I didn't want to go home. It's just as simple as that."

Instead, Kell and the Aztecs (22-10) are

headed to the NCAA Tournament with the league's automatic bid.

Since losing six of eight in January and February, San Diego State is riding a nine-game win streak into the Big Dance, its longest since winning 11 in a row during the 2015 season. During the nine-game win streak, the Aztecs are winning by an average margin of 13.3.

"We were just tired of losing," Watson said. "We knew we had too much potential to be losing games like that. And mentally from then to now, I feel like we're on a whole new level."

**Cal State Fullerton 71, UC Irvine 55:** Kyle Allman Jr. had his Big West Tournament Most Valuable Player Trophy next to him and looked at it with much satisfaction.

He'd just put the finishing touches on a fantastic 26-point performance to lead Cal State Fullerton to a decisive victory over UC Irvine in the conference tournament championship at Anaheim, Calif.

Allman lost out on the conference's regular season most valuable player trophy, but everything was all good on Saturday with that other MVP and automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"I worked super hard to get this. I was a little down about not getting player of the year," Allman said. "This made me a little happy."

Fourth-seeded Cal State Fullerton (20-11) won the Big West Tournament for the first time since 2008, making the Titans' upcoming NCAA Tournament appearance the first in a decade and first under coach Dedrick Taylor.

**Montana 82, Eastern Washington 65:** Three straight nights, three consecutive comebacks and Montana is Big Sky Conference champions and heading to the NCAA Tournament.

Michael Ogline scored 21 points and top-seeded Montana rallied to an 82-65 victory over Eastern Washington in the Big Sky title game at Reno, Nev.

The Grizzlies trailed 40-29 at halftime, but outscored the Eagles 53-25 in the second half, spurred by an unrelenting defense that had 18 stops in 19 possessions in one extended stretch.

Abund Rorie had 15 points, Bobby Morhead scored 12 and Fabian Krslovic had 11 points and 10 rebounds for Montana (26-7), which is back in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five years.

**Stephen F. Austin 59, Southeastern**

**Louisiana 55:** Stephen F. Austin has become accustomed to earning the Southland Conference's NCAA Tournament berth.

"They are the Kentucky of the Southland Conference," Southeastern Louisiana coach Jay Ladner said.

And after earning their fourth trip to the tournament in five years, the Lumberjacks aren't happy with just getting in.

T.J. Holyfield had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Stephen F. Austin rallied for a 59-55 win over Southeastern Louisiana in the championship game at Katy, Texas.

"It's exciting to be back in the tournament," said Holyfield, who was voted the tournament MVP. "Coach talked about we wants to coach the best team, and I feel we have to win a certain amount of games to do that, and we have to win a couple games in the tournament to do that."

**Texas Southern 84, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 69:** Texas Southern started out 0-13 this season. Didn't win a game until Jan. 1. Never beat a nonconference opponent.

Who cares? The Tigers are going to the NCAA Tournament.

Trayvon Reed had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Demontae Jefferson added 15 points and Texas Southern downed top-seeded Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game at Houston.

"We all came together at the right time, we all made a decision that winning basketball games were more important than anything else," coach Mike Davis said. "So being 0-13, it only bothered other people."

Texas Southern (15-19) earned an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament for the second straight season.

This is the Tigers' fourth appearance in the last five years. They're the only team since 1985 to reach the NCAA Tournament after starting 0-13.

"I can't wait for tomorrow," Davis said. "Let's get this selection Sunday going."

**N.C. Central 71, Hampton 63:** Pablo Rivas had 22 points and North Carolina Central scored 11 in a row to break a 58-all tie and beat Hampton in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Tournament championship on Saturday in Norfolk, Va.

Jordan Perkins added 13 points and nine assists and John Guerra scored 12 for the Eagles (19-15), who earned the league's automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament for the third time in five years.



L.E. BASKOW/AP

San Diego State players celebrate an 82-75 win over New Mexico in the championship game of the Mountain West Conference tournament on Saturday in Las Vegas.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS



ISAAC BREKKEN/AP

**Arizona's Rawle Alkins dunks over Southern California's Elijah Stewart during Saturday's Pac-12 tournament championship in Las Vegas. Arizona won 75-61.**

## No. 15 Arizona rides Ayton to Pac-12 crown

By JOHN MARSHALL  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Deandre Ayton dribbled through the sea of red-and-white confetti, bobbing and weaving past cheerleaders and fans. The Arizona big man came upon a security guard, dropped a spin move that left both smiling and headed to the locker room.

Ayton's night at the Pac-12 championship was just as smooth a ride.

Ayton had 32 points and 18 rebounds in one of the most dominating performances in Pac-12 Tournament history, leading No. 15 Arizona to its second straight title with a 75-61 victory over Southern California on Saturday night.

"The dominance he just put forth, if there's another player better, I'd like to meet him," Arizona coach Sean Miller said. "He put his team on his back, played the right way and absolutely was a one-man wrecking crew."

Ayton put on a show along The Strip, bouncing back from a nervous Pac-12 opener against Colorado with two dominating games.

The Bahamian big man had 32 points and 14 rebounds in a semifinal win over UCLA and knocked the Trojans (23-11) around like bowling pins in the championship game. Ayton made 14 of 20 shots from the floor and all four of his free throws to lead Arizona (27-8) to its ninth Pac-12 title.

"I was a little starstruck, I wasn't really, rushing all of my shots against Colorado, not taking my time," said Ayton, who matched the Pac-12 freshman record set by UCLA's Kevin Love with his 23rd double-double. "Coach told me to face up, see what the defense is giving me and that's what I did."

USC gave Arizona trouble with its zone at times and had a decent offensive night. The Trojans had no answer for Ayton.

# No. 1 Cavs edge Tar Heels

## Virginia wins ACC championship for second time in five seasons

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With no one-and-dones, no sure-fire NBA lottery picks, No. 1 Virginia put together one of the most dominant seasons in the storied history of Atlantic Coast Conference basketball.

Kyle Guy, Devon Hall and the Cavaliers beat No. 12 North Carolina 71-63 in the ACC championship game Saturday night to finish 20-1 against league competition.

Virginia (31-2) set a school record for victories, won the conference tournament for the second time in five seasons under coach Tony Bennett and will most certainly enter the NCAA Tournament as the No. 1 overall seed when the field of 68 is announced Sunday.

Not bad for a bunch that started the season unranked and picked to finish sixth in the ACC.

"I think we always knew this could be a special team," guard Ty Jerome said.

And now that the Cavaliers are favorites, Hall said they try to out-underdog the underdogs.

"You fight like you're not supposed to win or nobody expects you to win," he explained.

With plenty of their fans packing Barclays Center in Brooklyn, the top-seeded Cavaliers beat sixth-seeded North Carolina (25-10) for the second time this season and snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Tar Heels in ACC Tournament play.

Guy, the tournament MVP, scored 11 of his 16 points in the second half and Hall added 15 points, five rebounds and four assists. Jerome had 12 points, six assists and six rebounds for Virginia. Contributions from everywhere, a microcosm of this special season.

The Cavaliers dominated the ACC with efficiency, tenacity and teamwork. They went 17-1 in the regular season, the one loss by one point in overtime to Virginia Tech, and finished first by four games.

UNC, in its record 35th ACC championship game, played about as well as any team has this season against the best defensive team in the country, shooting 40 percent and committing only nine turnovers. In the regular season, the Tar Heels managed only



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

**Virginia forward Isaiah Wilkins (21) pulls down a rebound against North Carolina during the second half of Saturday's ACC tournament championship game in New York. Virginia won 71-63.**

49 points and 29 percent shooting while committing 19 turnovers in a loss at Virginia.

The Cavaliers played defense with their offense, turning the ball over just four times and allowing the up-tempo Tar Heels only two fast-break points. Virginia makes every possession feel crucial.

"That's where they take advantage of teams," said 17 North Carolina guard Joel Berry II, who had 19 points and four three-pointers.

## Villanova tops Friars in Big East

By TOM CANAVAN  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Even ripping his pants halfway through Big East Tournament championship game couldn't spoil the feeling Providence coach Ed Cooley had about his team.

Sure it hurt for the fifth-seeded Friars to lose to second-seeded and No. 2 Villanova 76-66 in their third straight overtime game. That could not take away from what Providence accomplished at Madison Square Garden this week.

A team supposedly on the NCAA Tournament bubble, Providence knocked out fourth-seeded Creighton on Thursday, rallied from a 17-point second-half deficit to beat top-seeded and No. 3 Xavier on Friday and then overcame a 12-point second-half deficit against Nova and had a last-second shot at winning in regulation.

Senior guard Kyron Cartwright couldn't make it after scoring 17 of his 19 points in the final 25 minutes. He was 6 of 10 from the field in the second half before missing the last-second shot.



FRANK FRANKLIN III/AP

**Villanova's Mikal Bridges (25) shoots over Providence's Isaiah Jackson during the Big East tournament final on Saturday in New York. Villanova won 76-66.**

"We just played two No. 1 seeds back to back in overtime," Cooley said. "That told me my team matured at the right time. It told me my team is gritty. It told me our team is tough, resilient, passion-

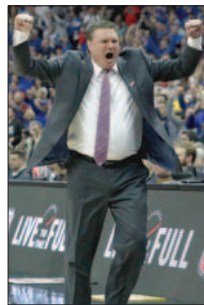
ate, really good leadership. ... I saw some guys come together at the right time and hopefully next week we can continue to play that way."

The Friars almost certainly will hear their name called during Sunday's NCAA selection show for the fifth straight year, and they will be a tough opponent for whoever they play.

Mikal Bridges scored 25 points and hit two three-pointers in overtime to lift No. 2 Villanova (30-4) to their second straight Big East Tournament and third in four years (losing in the 2016 final). They put a bow on a fantastic season that should have them earn a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Villanova had rolled to a pair of dominant victories in the tournament before holding off a pesky Providence team that finally wilted late.

The Friars had defeated three top-five teams this season and were soaring following overtime victories against Creighton and the Musketeers to reach the final. The Friars are the first team in the Big East Tournament to play three straight overtime games.



CHARLIE REDELL/AP

**Kansas head coach Bill Self celebrates after winning the Big 12 tournament championship 81-70 over West Virginia on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.**

## Kansas beats West Virginia for Big 12 title

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Devonte Graham ripped off the shooting sleeve he was wearing and tossed it into the crowd, then took the two-time Big 12 defensive player of the year baseline for a pullup jumper.

Talk about unflappable. Unstoppable, too.

The league's player of the year finished with 18 points and 13 assists, most of them during the decisive second half, and Graham led the ranked Kansas (27-7) to an 81-70 victory over Jevon Carter and No. 18 West Virginia in the Big 12 Tournament championship game Saturday night.

Malik Newman added 20 points on his way to tournament MVP, and freshman Silvio De Sousa had 16 points on 8-for-8 shooting in place of injured big man Udoka Azubuike, lifting the Jayhawks (27-7) to their 11th tournament title and a likely No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

It was the second time in three years they've beaten West Virginia (24-10) for the championship.

"We just locked on and starting plays and kept competing, and it was just fun. It was fun to be out there," Graham said with a smile. "It helped that we were able to make shots."

Modest understatement there. The Jayhawks shot 72 percent from the field in the second half, and 56 percent for the game, while going 15 of 27 from beyond the three-point arc.

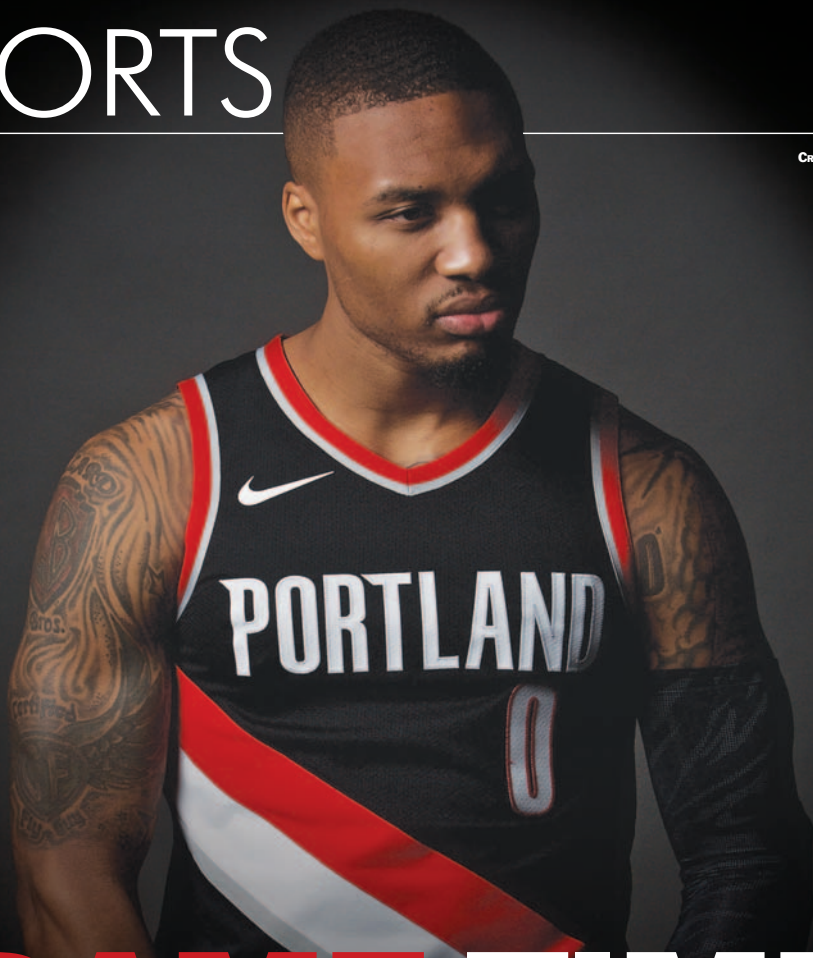
"They have a lot of guys who can make shots," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "Let's be honest, all of those guys out there, if they're not McDonald's All-Americans it's because they're from another country. They have good players and their guy can coach, you know?"

Daxter Miles Jr. hit five threes and had 25 points to lead West Virginia, which has lost the last three Big 12 title games.



# SPORTS

CRAIG MITCHELLOVER/AP



## DAME TIME

### Lillard leading Trail Blazers' late-season surge

BY ANNE M. PETERSON  
*Associated Press*

**D**AMIAN Lillard says the Portland Trail Blazers reach out to him before he reaches team milestones, just to give him a heads up.

The only problem? Lillard doesn't read his emails.

Lillard joked about it after his latest achievement: He surpassed Clifford Robinson on the Blazers' all-time scoring list, moving into fourth, in Portland's victory over the Knicks on Tuesday. Lillard, in his sixth NBA season, has 10,461 points.

"The team, I think they send me emails when something's coming up, but I never check my email," he said. "I never know unless I happen to see it on Twitter or until after I do it and somebody mentions it."

Robinson was sure to get Lillard's attention, sending his sentiments over Twitter.

**SEE TIME ON PAGE 27**

Marshall returning to NCAA Tournament after 31-year absence » **Page 30**

No. 1 Virginia knocks off North Carolina for ACC championship » **Page 31**

